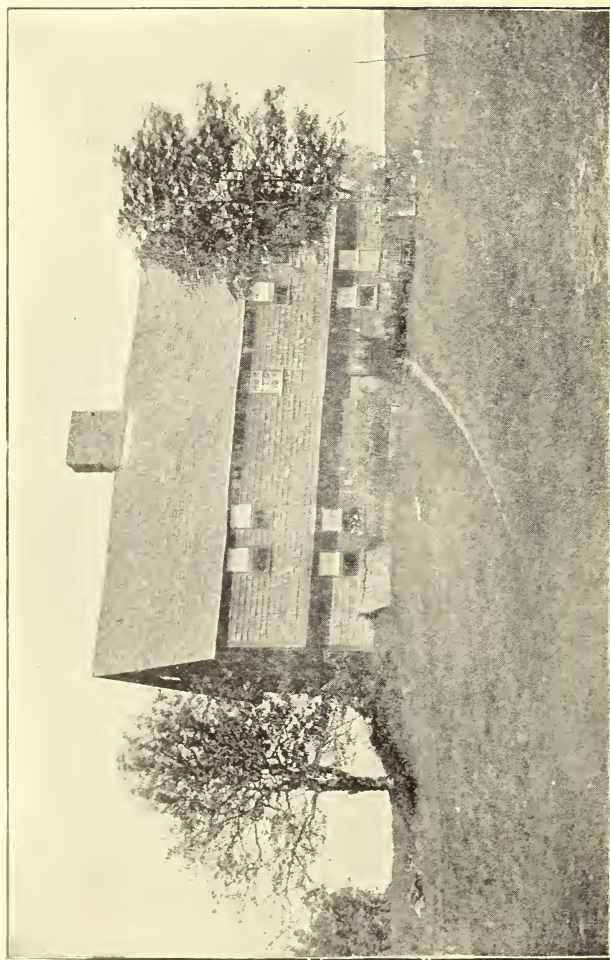




Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015



THE "PARSON CAPEN" HOUSE.

Frame erected July 8, 1683. The new home of the Topsfield Historical Society.

From a photograph made in 1900

THE
HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS
OF THE
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XVIII

1913

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Published by the Society

1913

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

Editor

THE MERRILL PRESS

Topsfield

MASS

CONTENTS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR	
ENDING DEC. 31, 1912	v
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR THE YEAR	
ENDING DEC. 31, 1912	vii
TOWNE FAMILY PAPERS, 1670-1862	i
NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD, COPIED	
BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW, <i>Continued</i>	97
HISTORICAL NOTES	120
TOPSFIELD VITAL STATISTICS, 1912	121
CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1912	124
BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED, 1912	124

REPORT
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1912.

The membership of the society on December 31, 1912, was 242. Eleven new members have been elected and five have died during the year:—Maj. L. A. Abbott of Washington, D. C., Wellington Pool of Wenham, and Mrs. Harriett Fuller, Mrs. Mary S. Perkins and Mrs. Mary L. Nichols of Topsfield. Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Fuller were charter members of the Society.

Three meetings have been held at which papers or addresses have been given by James Duncan Phillips, the President and the Secretary.

Volume 17 of the Historical Collections which was partly in type at the last annual meeting has not been completed although 142 pages have been printed. It is hoped that the printer may complete the volume before many weeks have passed. The principal contributions will be continuations of the Topsfield town records and newspaper items relating to Topsfield, the latter having been brought up to the year 1856.

The receipt in April, of 29 shares of the stock of the United Shoe Machinery Company, the bequest of the late David Cummings of Boston, places our building fund at a respectable figure and at the November meeting of the Society it was voted to offer the sum of \$1500. for the Capen

House and one acre of land. This was done but no response has been received.

From a considerable collection of family papers preserved by the late J. Perkins Towne, copies have been secured sufficient in amount to occupy one hundred or more pages in a volume of our Historical Collections. Many of these papers are of early date and of much historical value.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Secretary.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1912

RECEIPTS

1912

Jan. 1,	Balance cash on hand,		\$201 56
Dec. 31,	Received from annual dues,	\$42 50	
"	" " Hist. Colls. sold,	3 00	
"	" " binding,	6 00	51 50
			<hr/>
			\$253 06

PAYMENTS

Dec. 31,	Paid on acct.		
	printing Vol. 17, Hist. Colls.	\$104 75	
"	Engraving,	2 00	
"	Postage, and misc. printing,	5 80	
"	Roger P. Towne, copying		
	Towne MSS.	11 40	\$123 95
			<hr/>
	Balance cash on hand Dec. 31, 1912,	129 11	
			<hr/>
			\$253 06

Jan. 1, 1913,	Balance on hand,	\$126 11
---------------	------------------	----------

BUILDING FUND

Jan. 1, 1912,	Amt. deposited in Salem		
	Savings Bank	\$846 20	
Apr. 8, "	Balance bequest David		
	Cummings in cash	36 23	
Dec. 31, "	Dividends from United Shoe		
	Mach. Co., 29 shares stock,	43 50	
"	" Interest on Bank deposit	35 33	
			<hr/>
			\$961 26

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Examined and approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,

ARCHER ANDREWS.

And by Mary his second wife daughter of mr. George Purchase of Thaxsted in the County of Essex being married March 30 1619, which Mary deceased Octob 29, 1639, when she had been married 20 years & 7 months.

Harington Perkins born January 22 1619

Edward Perkins born January 18 1622, his fathers sixth son, his mothers sixth child, ergo Edw. the Sixth

Samuel Perkins born June 13, 1624

Elizabeth " " May 15, 1629

Ex autographo charissimi Patris. Manu. Edwardi ibidem nominati Febr. 16 1669-70.

The lineage of William Perkins of Topsfield in New England (Son of William Perkins of London merchant taylor) by Elizabeth Wootton his wife, whom he married at Roxbury Aug. 30th 1636

William his first born the 12th of October 1639, who died the 23^d of December the same year & had been baptized by Mr Welde of Roxbury.

William Perkins the second son born Feb. 26, 1640, baptized at Roxbury, I being then in England

Elizabeth, my first daughter born at Waymouth June 18, 1643, baptized by mr Newman.

Tobijah Perkins born at Waymouth October 20th 1646, baptized by mr Thatcher, I being then the second time in England

Katharine, born at Waymouth October 29, 1648, baptized by mr. Thatcher.

Mary, born at Gloster, Febr. 17, 1651, baptized by my ministry.

John born at Topsfield, April 2^d, 1655, baptized by mr. Norton, at Ipswich, after Mr. Rogers, his death.

Sarah born at Topsfield March 2^d 1656-57 baptized by mr Cobbet

Timothy born at Topsfield Aug. 11, 1658, baptized by mr Cobbet

Rebecca born at Topsfield May 4th 1662 baptized by mr Hubbard.

John Baker eldest son of mr [John] Baker of Ipswich in New England, May 13, 1667, with consent of parents

on both sides took to wife Katherine my second daughter, the first which the merciful Providence of God, gave me opportunity to be disposed of in marriage. This marriage was accompanied with a daughter, dead born 15 months after their marriage, and with the birth of a second daughter named Elizabeth born the last of march or beginning of April Anno 1670, I being in England, and with a son named John, I being in England after their marriage

William my second son married Elizabeth Clarke daughter to Daniel Clarke of Topsfield, October 24, 1669, with consent of parents on both sides and before my return from England, was blest with a daughter named Elizabeth and, before my return the second time after their marriage with a daughter Mary and a son William at two births.

Elizabeth my eldest and first daughter was by Major Hathorn of and at Salem the last day of May, 1671, married to John Ramsdell of Lynn, with consent of parents on both sides, and had her marriage blest while I was in England with her first daughter named Elizabeth, and after my second return from thence with a second daughter named Mary born the 26th of January 1574, all which children were baptized. God grant them the baptism of his Spirit also.

Mr Oliver Purchis, September 17, anno 1672 married Mary Perkins my third daughter, the Lord in mercy favour it with his blessing.

Mr John Bradstreet, June 11, 1677 married Sarah Perkins my fourth daughter with the free consent and appointment of his father Symond Bradstreet Esq. by the ministry of his uncle Major General Dennison.

Thomas Fiske, son to Capt. Fiske of Wenham, married Rebeckah Perkins, my fifth and youngest daughter the 3^d of November 1678 The Lord bless it to us all.

Tobijah Perkins, my second son took to wife Sarah Dennison, the 4th of November 1680, with the consent of both their parents at Major General Dennison's house. The Lord build them up and provide for the two younger sons also.

HUMPHREY BEANE OF LONDON TO HIS BROTHER IN
LAW DANIEL CLARKE IN TOPSFIELD
IN NEW ENGLAND.

London the 27 Ap^l 1670 "

Brother & Sister Clarke

this cometh by the hand of M^r Will^m Perkins your neighbour, which I hope will find you with your little ones in health. I send you over [by] John Peirce, five pieces of good Red pennistone and [a] kittle and a barrel of good fine powder, with some other necessarys, the God who sending them to you, I hope will also convey them safe to you. As to your children craveing from beyond your will, I am not therein pleased, but would have them all submit to their parents with all due obedience and would have you so Govern yourself as to be Father over them all in Righteousness. I keep your Son Samuel at school, and Doubt not but he will be a good schollar. I have made provision after my Decease, for you and all yours in New England, and particularly for my nephew Samuel. so living or Dieing you shall as have found me your affectionate Brother.

Humphry Beane

Copied off by Samuel Clarke for his
Friend M^r Jacob Towne Jun^r of
Topsfield. AD. March 31, 1721.

CONTRACT TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR WILLIAM PERKINS.

Thease preasents witneseth y^t J Joseph Hale of Newbury in y^e County of Efex in New England doe bind my self my Heyers Executors or Administrators, to Heugh frame and feat up, and doe all y^e Carpenters woorke of a House of : 25 : foot Long and : 20 : foot wide and 14 foot ftud, for william Pearkins of Topsfield in y^e above sd County at or be fore y^e first of march next Insueing y^e date heare of y^e woork is to be compleatly finished, & y^e aboue sd william Pearkins doe like so In gage my self my heyers or Executors, to provid for y^e above sd Joseph hale meat drink and Lodging all y^e time y^t y^e above sd woork

is doing, and Likewise to bring all y^e Tymber into Place
 y^t is needfull for y^e building and to provide futch as thall
 be futable for y^e fame, and Likewise to provide Boards
 shingles and nailes futable for y^e woorke, In Confideration
 of Twenty feaven Poundes wch y^e above fd william pear-
 eins have Given bill for y^e payment of, and to y^e suere
 performance of what is above written I the above fd
 Joseph Hale doe feat to my hand and seale this : 16 : of
 march : 1691 The poasts are to be split and studs and
 Joyst sawd

Sealed and delivered in y^e
 preasents of : witneses
 John How
 Philip Goodridge

William Perkins [seal]
 Joseph Hale

CAPT. JOHN GOULD, ET AL., TO LIEUT. ANTHONY
 BRACKET.

Topsfield, th₂₉ october 1695

Lieut Anthony Bracket

Sir after our Respects prsented to y^e this is to Informe
 y^e how it has fell out that John perkins has staid longer
 then y^e time y^e did apoint him, his father is very elle and
 lyse at y^e piont of death, and I did tell him I did beleve
 y^e were so much of a Ingenas man that in such a case
 y^e would not take noe advantige of him nor take noe for-
 fite of him in such a case as this is, and I did pefwaid him
 to stay a day or two longer and did pefume to say I would
 itand and have him have Lese as y^e provedance of God
 was in residing of his father. I pray blame him not but
 impute it to y^r ffrind and servant who will pay y^e and if
 y^e see good to aske any thing when I speeke with y^e fir
 the humbell petition of your frinds the Commitee of ma-
 litia of Topsfeild is that y^e would be plased to give John
 perkinns firtifackat how long he has served under y^r Com-
 mand and lett him retorne againe forth with and next
 Monday theire is one lustey man apionted to come and
 ferve in his rome he has a famely and can not at prsent
 leave his faimeley fir I pray grant our request if his
 father did not lye evene at y^e piont of death we should
 not a requested such athing, fir wee were not wiling to
 detaine him any longer thoe y^e cafe is verey hard for him

to Come not knowing when he will see his father alive againe, so not trobling y^e any fferder at pefent putting Confidance in y^e that y^e will not denie our request as y^e Cafe is ever rest and remaine y^r ever oblidged ffrinds & farvants.

John Gould Cap^t
Thomas Baker Leut
Ephraim Dorman En^s

THOMAS AVERILL TO RICHARD CARR.

from Nechewarnick october y^e 17—1695

fir pray Deliver to y^e barrer hereof John pirkins by name fome money for I have hurt one of my legs very badly and I being from home do want fome money to pay for y^e Cuer of my leg. In fo doing I fhall Reft yours to ferve In what I may

To M^r Richard Carr

Thomas Averill

Liveing in falfbury

Deliver with fpeed

AGREEMENT BETWEEN JOSIAH GOODRIDGE AND JOHN PERKINS.

This may Satisfy whome it may Concarne Articalls of A gremant be twene Josiah Gutredg one the one part and m^r John perkins one the other part: viz the said Gutredg doth ingage to go to the eastward and to Relac the said perkinsis brother—wilyam perkins: and to enter in his Room for thre months: and at the end of three months the said John perkins doth ingage to releas the said Gutredg one the panelty of twalve panc a day: and the said John perkins doth ingage to paye to the said Gutredg at the end of thre months twanty five fhilens A month for all the thre months and the said perkins is to have the Cuntry wages: and no advantidg is to be tacen for the failuer of a Relac for too or thre dais the pay is to be in cloth at mony pric: and the twalve panc a day beside Cuntry wages after the thre months is out.

Dat y^e 7th of January 1696/7

Witness

John How

Thomas Parley secunde

John Perkins

Josiah Goodridge

HANNAH PERKINS TO MISS MOLLY PERKINS.

Loving Coufin I take this time to write a few words to you to let you know that I am well both in body and mind, and I hope these few unworthy lines will find you well also, I have got some good news to write to you, for it has pleased God to give me a good hope through grace and not me only but many others in these parts and we hear from many other places that religion spreads we heard from Chelsea about three weeks ago and there was a reformation there Coufin Huldah and one of her daughters about eleven years old were converted and I hope to hear that there is a reformation in the parts where you live. We read in the Scripture that the hour Cometh and now is that the dead shall hear the voyce of the son of god and they that hear shall live. I want to see you more than ever I did since I heard that you have known the resurrection power of Jesus in your soul. We live very happy lately for all denominations here meet together two or three times a week to worfhip God. May the God of peace rule in your heart and lead you into all truth is the sincere desire of your friend and well wifher

Hannah Perkins

Unity, March the 17th 1799.

N. B. Write to me as often as you have an opportunity.

[To] Miss Molly Perkins, Topsfield.

march 15 th 1730 or 31 Jacob Robinson D ^r	
to boarding 2 Carpenters Robard Bradford &	
John Curtis five weeks & two Days at	
8 ^s per week	02—02— 8
May 10 to 50 pounds of veal at five pence	
per pound	01—00—10
to 28 pounds of pork at 10 ^d per pound	01—03— 4
to 11 pounds of pork at 12 ^d per pound	00—11— 0
to 12 pounds of butter at 11 ^d per pound	00—14—00
to 1 bushel of beans at 6—6 ^d per bus ^l	00—06— 6
	<hr/>
	05—18— 4

MILITARY COMMISSIONS TO BENJAMIN TOWNE.

Gov. Jonathan Belcher appointed "Benjamin Towne Gentleman to be Ensign of the Military Company in Topsfield whereof Ivory Hovey is Captain in the Regiment of Militia within the County of Essex whereof John Wainwright Esq. is Colonel."

Dated Sept. 22, 1738.

Gov. J. Belcher appointed Benjamin Town, Gentleman, Lieutenant of the Foot Company of Militia within the Town of Topsfield under Captain John Wildes in third Regiment * * * whereof Thomas Berry is Colonel.

Dated May 7, 1740.

Gov. William Shirley appointed Benjamin Town, Gentleman, to be Lieutenant of the Foot Company in the Town of Topsfield under John Wildes, Captain, in third Regiment * * * whereof Thomas Berry is Colonel.

Dated Dec. 17, 1743.

Gov. Spencer Phips appointed Benjamin Towne, Gentleman, to be Captain, etc.

Dated March 24, 1751.

THOMAS ROBINSON TO JACOB TOWNE.

Coalrain March ye 30 1749

Mr Jacob Towne Sir my Sarvice to you Hopeing you are well as I am my Self I Had News that Samuel Curtis is Come Down to be publifhed and if he is I Wode Have you Send me word as Soon as you can if He is Down or if He ante Send me Word Whot He Seafe about you no What So no more at present but I remain your Humble Sarvant to Same

Thomas Robinfon

To Mr Jacob Towne at Topsfield with Care

MILITARY FORMATION IN 1752.

Ranks to the Right Double fils to the Right Double
Rear half fils face to the Right about and March 6

paces and Counter march and Double your front In tiar
makes y^e 3

Ranks to the Right Double file to the Right Double
makes the 4

front half file Counter march on the ground you stand
and Double your Rear In tiar and you are Reduced

Ranks to the Right Double file to the Right Double
makes the 2 men file Leaders

Rear half file face to the Right about march 6 paces
and Countermarch and double your front In tiar

Wheel front and Rear in to the midst
then wheel the right and Left flank in to the midst
half Rank of the Right flank Double your Left flank
in tiar

then front half file Double your rear in Tiar

Half rank of the Left flank Double your Right flank

Rear half file face To the Right about & march six
paces and Countermarch and Double your front to the
Right of your file Leaders

Every other file beginning with the Right hand file ad-
vance your armes and march 6 paces and Countermarch
and Double your Rear In tiar

then Every other Rank from the front Double your
Left flank In tiar

then wheel front and Rear in to the midst.

Benjamin Towne.

Topsfield, May the 20 Day, 1752

THOMAS PERKINS TO JACOB PERKINS.

Arundel Novem^r 10th 1753.

Brother I have waited a great while for you to make
up betwen us and you have not done it, and I now send
to you once more and I entreet you as a Brother & frind
to your self to send Somebody to do it betwen this and
the first of Dec^r next or I will send a writ to you with out
fail. I wrote to you last I wold take anything for what
was due but never heard a word from you, I am veary
sorrey you put me and your self to trouble, but it is your
own falt, and I do defier the wellfare of you & youres as

well as I do my owne. I hope you are all well. Dont fail of sending Down to me, my love to you and yours & to all frinds.

Thomas Perkins.

[To] Jacob Perkins.

COL. THOMAS BERRY TO CAPT. BENJ. TOWNE.

Sir

I wrote a Month agoe about the Militia of your Renewing your Commisison, which you have not been pleased to take Notice of, which I must Look upon as a great Contempt, and an abuse of the Favour of Respect which has been Shown you

By your Friend

Tho^s Berry

Ipswich April 2^d 1754
To Capⁿ Benj^a Town
In Topsfeild.

JOSEPH PERKINS TO JACOB PERKINS.

honred father and mother my Duty To you and Love to my Brothers and Sisters hoping that these few Lins will find you in good health as they Leave me Blefsed be God for the Same our frinds are all Well at Present we are at hadlye at Present and Expect to goe from here in a little Time. Remember me to all That ask after me so I ad no more at Present But Desier your Prayers To God for me so I Remain your Dutfly son Tell Dath

Joseph Perkins

Hadlye the 1 Day 1758
To M^r Jacob Perkins
In Topsfield with Care and Speed

EPHRAIM TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Danvarse Auguft y^e 3^d 1758

To you my Loving Brother I send these few Loins to you Hoping that they will find you in good Health as they left me and mine Thro the goodnes of God and Having an oppertunity to sen these Loines to you I gladly im-

braft it. hoping you will do the same and to inform you that i have nothing Remarkable to send to you but To inform you that your Friends are in good health and that it is a general time of Health amongst us and I Do Lement the Lementtable Defeat that I Hear that our army met with of Lait Hopin that god will yet Smile upon our New England forefes and blefs and Prosper them in all their Lawful undertaking and to you my Loving Brother I send Counfeling you to put your trust and Confidence In that god which is able and willing to save all thofe that put Their trust in him and I will yet Continue my earneft prayors to god For your and the Rest of my Brothers safe Return in Gods time, and I would Desire to be Remembered to the Rest of my Brothers and your Sifter Sarah my wife alfo Defires be Remembered to you and the Rest of her Brothers and to inform you that our Sifter is Removed from Fathers into andover and so no more at present but to Subscribe myself your Loving Brother

Ephraim Towne

To M^r Jacob Towne att Fort Edward In Cap Israel
Davases Company at the west ward Deliver this
with Care

[Written on the corner of the sheet] and I the subscriber alfo Do Defire to be Remembered to you and to the Rest of my friends and in Peticaler to Cap Ifrael Herick if you can find out who I Bee

JACOB TOWNE'S DISCHARGE.

By Order of Col^l Jn^o Bradstreet D. Q. M. G.

I do hereby Discharge Jacob Town from Cap Davis's Com^p of Battoemen he being not fitt for Service given Under my Hand Octob^r 27, 1758

Dan^l D'Normandie

JACOB TOWNE TO CAPT. BENJAMIN TOWNE.

Ever Honoured father and Mother our Duty to you and Love to all our brothers and fisters Hoping that thefe fue Lynds will find you in good Health as thay Leav us in blefsed be God for it brother Ezra hath ben fick

with the throat Distemper and He is got somthing betor
and Doctor said that the best thing that Can be Don for
Him is for sum of His frinds to Com and bring Him Home
for if He should Citch Cold He might not ever Return
Home and He Desired sum of His brothers to Come and
bring Him Home. I fupose that He will be on the Road
a Coming Home as fast as He Can and I Hope that we
shall not tarrey Heare above fourteen or fifteen Days
Longer The Men of Topsfield that are in our Company
are well. Jabesh Towne is Dead and Dudley perkins.
We Desire to be Remembered to all our frinds so no more
att prefent but we Remain your Dutifull sons untill
Dearth

Lake george october the 10 AD 1758
Edmond and I Remember Jacob Towne
our Love to Debbe Edmond Towne
To Captin Benjamin Towne Living in Topsfield
Delivor with Care and Speed

BENJAMIN TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Ever Loving Brother after my Love to you hop^{ing}
These fue Lines will find you in good helth I have had a
Long Spell of weekness this Spring I was not able to do
any work for seven week but throw the Goodness of God
I am got beter my famely have been very pour this spring
you sent me a leter in which you tould me that you had
taken up the bond at M^r peals and say he demands twelve
on the hundred send me word whether you pay so much
and I would pray you to sever me from that note and you
will oblige me. Give my Duty to father and mother and
Love to all my Brothers Aand Sisters

So no more at present but I Remain your Loving
Brother untill Dearth

May y^d 29 ad 1759
Sturbridge

Benj^a Towne

The note is one pound eleven shilens & fouer pence
Due you tender him the money and demand the note be-
fore witnesses or do that which father shall think best. I
would have you come up this fall.

[To] Mr Jacob Towne Topsfield.

JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO MRS. HANNAH PERKINS.

Honoured Mother these few lines are to Let you Know that we are all a little about house at present Blessed be God for it and we hope to hear that you and all our frinds are well and we give our Duty to you and our Love to all our Brothers and sisters and our Love to Andrew and Joseph Remembers his Love to andrew and Mehetibel Remembers her Love to Andrew and I take this opportunity to let you know that I want to know whether you Intends to send your son Abel up to live with me for if you do I should be glad to know it as quick as Conveantly I can and I will do by him as we tolked of when I saw you our Jacob hath got a sore head and your Daughter is of the mind that he wantes sum small cordil of his granne before it will git well and if you will be pleasd to send sum present your Daughter will take it very thankful at your hands and so shall I and we would inform our sister Lydia Chapman that we Received her Letter by the hand of M^r Richard Cree and if she sends us any other Letter we would have her git sum Comon Riter to Rite it for we are not skild in such high flown Riting and we would Informe you that it is a time of helth amongst us at present and if sisters Chapman or Luse will come up and stay with us a little while and cannot git them a horse to Ride up on I will send down one for them if they will send word by the Barer hereof so no moor at present but we Remain your Dutiful Children until Death part us

Dated at Douglafs December y^e 7th 1761

Joseph Cummings
Abigail Cummings

for Mrs Hannah perkins
Living in Topsfield

JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO WIDOW LYDIA CHAPMAN.

Dear Sister

With an Effictionent Love Still Remaining in us Toards you Caufes us to Right to you hoping thefe Lines will find you in health as they Leave us and our famely through

the Procetⁿ of Divine Providence I Depend upon your Coming up to See us the Latter End of Sep^t or the Begine:g of Oct. at furthest: we got home Verely well the 2^d Day we Came away from Topsfield give my Duty to Mother and my Love in Pertickerly to andrew and to all my Brothers and Sisters We Rced the Letter that Joseph sent us Sep^t the 15th Baring Date Aug^t the 30th which we are obliged to him for Righting: and time and Paper Being So verely Sckars obligefs us to omitt Send him an Answer at this time.

Joseph Cummings
Abigal Cummings

Douglafe, Sep^t the 15th 1762

P. S. Mehetabel Remembers her Love to Andrew
[To] the Widow Lydia
Chapman in Topsfield

PROVERBS COPIED FROM THE BACK OF A SHIP'S
MANIFEST.

Inwards	}	In the Brigantine Epes, Plant ^a built, registered at Boston 30 July 1765, Property all British, about 95 tons burthen, no guns, navigated with 3 Men, all Britifh, besides James Babson Master for this pres- ent Voyage from St Eustatia & Turks island.
Port of Salem		
New-England		

Custom-House, 15 Day of April, 1766

James Babson

Sworn before

John Fisher

Coll^r

As you brew so shall you bake
A burnt child dreads the fire
A cat may look upon a king
A fools bolt is soon shot
All goes down gutter lane
As wise as a man of Gotham

All is well that ends well
A rolling stone gathers no moss
An old dog will learn no tricks
After sweet meat comes sour sauce
A lark is better than a kite
As good as George of Green*
Better pay at small game than stand
Brag is a good dog, but hold fast is a better
Birds of a feather flock together
Charity begins at home
Cut your coat according to the cloth
Cursed cows have short horns
Every bean has its black
Every man thinks his geese swans
Fat paunches make lean pates
Fast bind, fast find
Faint heart never won fair lady
Give him a Roland for his Oliver
Give a man luck and throw him into the sea.
Good wine needs no bush.
He who has a mind to beat a dog, will easily find a stick.
He that reckons without his host must reckon again
He steals a goose and gives a gibbet in alms.
He looks one way and rows another.
He makes a rod for his own breech
Haste makes waste.
He sets the fox to keep his geese.
He that would live at peace & rest, must hear & see &
say the best.
Hungry dogs will eat dirty pudding.
Hunger's the best Sauce
Harm watch, harm catch.
It is an ill wind that blows nobody good.
It is good to make hay while the sun shines.
If you trust before you try, you may repent before you
die.
It is a good horse that never stumbles.
Its neither rhyme nor reason.

*This George of Green was that famous diver of Wakefield who fought with Robin Hood and little John and got the better of both of them, as the old ballad tells us.

I talk of chalk and you of cheese
Jack will never make a gentleman
Little pitchers have big ears
Like father, like son
Much falls between the cup & the lip
Many hands make light work
Money makes the mare go
Many talk of Robin Hood who never shot his bow
Many words will not fill a bushel
Nothing venture nothing have
Need makes the old wife trot
No longer pipe, no longer dance
Near is my shirt but nearer my skin
One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
Out of the frying pan into the fire
One scabbed sheep mars the whole flock.
One man had better steal a horse, than another to look
 over the hedge.
One swallow does not make summer.
One good turn deserves another
Penny wise and pound foolish
Reckon not your chickens before they are hatched
Robin Hood's pennyworth, lightly come, lightly go.
Sue a beggar and catch a louse.
Save a thief from hanging & he will cut your throat.
'Tis too late to spare when all is spent
The more haste the worse speed
To cut large thongs out of another man's leather
Too much of one thing is good for nothing
The Tracey's have always the wind in their faces
The younger brother the better gentleman.
Tread on a worm & it will turn
The receiver is as bad as the thief.
Virtue which parleys is near a surrender.
Well begun is half ended
When vice goes before vengeance follows after
When the stud's stolen shut the stable door
What can we have of a cat but the skin?
What is bred in the bone will never be out of the flesh.

Topsfield october the 8 A.D. 1766 these may Certifie all persons whome it may Concern that Jacob Towne hath paid sufficient beveridge for making a Lite blue Coat and Jackit Lind with tamme stuf and blue Horn buttons which he nows wars as witness my Hand

Joseph Hobbs

RICHARD KIMBALL TO JOSEPH KIMBALL.

Cousin Jacob Kimball After due servis to you & yours I would Inform you that I am under very poor furcumstances on account of my helth for ten Days past I have not had but Little rest night nor day that which I Labour under is Called Rumitics I am Seasd in my hip & thy & nie Leg & ancle y^e greatese pain is in hip & ancle Sr I Have heard that m^r Jacob Town that Lives near you has Skill in Such Disorders I pray you to go to him your Self & get Sumthing from him for that purpose if you get anything pray Rite how it must be used fail not for I am in great distrefs in so Doing you will Oblidge your poor uncle - - - Richard Kimball.

Boxford, August 1767.

To M^r Jacob Kimball of Topsfield

JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO JOHN BATCHELDER.

Ever Honoured Father and mother. after our Duty to you Hopeing that these few Lines will find you in as good Health as they Leave us at present Bleffed Be god for the Same, we Have nothing Strange to write to you. It is a Time of Health among us at Present we would inform you that we are as we Hope we shall Have a minifter in a Little time settled In this place His name is Fitch & we Have given Him a Call But He has Not as yet gave his Answer I would Inform you that I Have Bought a farm & Have got a Houfe Raïd on it, I Desire you would send up a Letter to Let us know How you Do For we Have Heard that Father is very poorly and weakly. Remember us to all our Friends, and to all that ask after us, we should Be very glad If Some of our Brothers would Come up and see us, and If they want Land Cheap and

Have a mind to buy Now is the time to Have it so, Land
that will make a good farm,

And So No more at present But we Remain your Dutiful Children Till Death.

Douglass, November
23--1768

Joseph Cummings
Abigail Cummings

[To] John Batcheller

JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO JOHN BATCHELDER.

Ever Honoured father and Mother. After our Duty to you, Hoping that these few lines will find you in as good Health as they leave us at present, Blessed be God for the Same. I would inform you that our family is well And it is a general Time of Health among us we met with a Bad Loss Last December our Cow by an accident at Mr Goulds she Died in a Cart Wheel I would Have you send us up a Letter when Zaccus or John Gould shall will come up which will Be soon, to Let us know How all our friends Do. Remember us to all our friends I would Be very glad if Some of my Brothers would Come up and Carry mehitabel Down for she wants to Come Down to Live for we are so poor and Low and Looking our Cow that we shall find it Hard to maintain all our family and if any of my Brothers will Come up this Spring they Shall Have Her one year or While She is 18 years old I would Have you send word up By the Goulds whether any of you will come up or no. & So no more at present But we Remain Your Dutiful Children till Death

Douglass march 22^d 1770
[To] John Batcheller.

Joseph Cummings
Abigail Cummings

JOSEPH CUMMINGS TO WIDOW HANNAH BATCHELLER.

Ever Honoured Mother.

After Our Duty to you & love to Brothers & Sisters Hoping these few lines will find you in as good health as they leave us at present Blessed be God for the Same I would Inform you that we got Home well But found Amos very lame of a Cut in his knee which was cut the

Tuesday before I got home he Had a very bad Sore and is not got Quite well yet tho he Begins to get about again The Rest of our family is well the Childrend Send Duty to you & love to their Uncles and Aunts I do Intend to Come Down the last of may If nothing happens to me more than I know of it is a general Time of Health among us & so no more at present But we Remain your Dutifull Children till Death

Joseph and Abigail Cummings

Douglafs April 10th 1775

[To] Widow Hannah Batcheller, Topsfield

WILLIAM ROGERS TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Cambridge May th11 1775

Loving Brother and Sister thes Lines com to Inform you that I am well and all with me thanks be given to God for it Hoping you are well I Sente my horfe to your house and I pray you to Let Lu^{tt} John Noyes have him to Ride hom for he is my offe^r and a man of honor, and if my Horse is not with you pray Let him have yours to Ride to his hous and you may Depend that he will not Rong your horse and do not fail him for he is going to in Lift more men for me and I wold Right more to you but time fails me from your Louing Brother

William Rogers

N. B. the Berer of this Leter to have the horfe.
To Mr Joseph Towne in Topffield

Lost yesterday By me the subcriber in Ipswich A Red-ish Coulered Coat it is Something fadeed and is full Trim^d with Moehair Buttons two of the Buttons is wore of upon the fore parts and one upon each Sleeve whofoever will inform me where I may have it Shall Be rewarded for their trouble By me

Nathaniel Averill Jun

Topsfield may the
27th 1775

EDMUND QUINCY TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Stoughtonham June 8th 1775M^r Joseph TowneD^r Sir

I fould have Seen you long ere this time but the perplexities of the times have yet prevented me. this will be deliverd you by Cap^t John Stayley Blackwell who is the miner you have heard M^r Buntin and my Self so often speak of, he Comes down to Topsfeild to see the mines, and Examine them, therefore should be glad you would give him all the Afsistance in your Power to get the Water out, and let him Examine the mine throughly you will treat him properly on my Account and you must not take him by his Drefs, as the Times makes it necessary he is a Gentleman tho he appears in this Drefs, and I should be Glad that his coming down to Examine the Mine you will keep as much to your Selves as you can notwithstanding the Times are very hard I determine to Carry on the Mine as soon as possible Hands may be Got, that I can depend on, I design to See you at Topsfeild as soon as I can, my Regards to your Wife & Children and all enquiring Freinds and Remain

Your fincere Freind &

Well Wifher

Edm. Quincy.*

To M^r Joseph Townein his Absence to M^r Jacob Towne in Topsfeild

Cred to M^r Edmund Quincy Esq^s by Cash £ m for Labor in Droing the wat^r oute of the mine

Nov^r 21: 1776 Cred^t to M^r Edmund Quincy Esq^r for the Labor Don in the mine by my Self and Elisah in June 8, 1776

Topsfield July ye 15, 1776

Rec^d of m^r Samuel Perkins the Sum of Six Pounds thirteen Shilling and fouer pence in full for hafe a turne in the Emrican Service.

*See Topsfield Historical Collections, vol. ii, p. 73.

To M^r Zebulun Perkins 'Sir Thefe are to Notifie you
that you are Drafted by me as a man to Reinforce the
Contenantal army for Eight months from the Date hereof,
or procure Some able Bodied man to Serve in your Room

Topsfield August

Stephⁿ Perkins Cap^t

22^d 1777

Topsfield August 23^d 1777

Rec^d of Zebulun Perkins fifteen pounds as a fine for
not Serving as a Soldier in the Contenatel army for
Eight months when Drafted therefor.

Stephⁿ Perkins

EDMUND QUINCY TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Stoughtonham March 7th: 1777

Dear Sir

I just now received a Letter from you by M^r Israel
Freeman who says he is willing to undertake to separate
the ore that is got up and I am content he should if you
like it I have told him that He may go and make Tryal
of what he can do with the different parts of the Ore,
that that lays upermost must be a good deal Sun burnt
but that underneath will yield well, let him try the dif-
ferent parts and then we will come to some agreement
with Him. m^r Guild and I have appointed Several times
to Come to Topsfeild but we have got an Order from the
General to make a Quantity of Warlike Stores at our
Furnace which has kept us much Confind but as soon as
the weather will permit we shall Sett off from home and
hope to see you very soon

My Son got home a Month ago after 4 month miserable
hard usage has been very Ill since he Came home, but
has now got better. my hearty Regards to your Wife
and Daughter and to your Brother hoping this will find
you all well and to all inquiring Freinds I remain

Y^r sincere Freind & well wif her

Edm. Quincy

To M^r Joseph Towne

In Topsfeild

p^r M^r Israel Freeman

JANE PERKINS TO MRS. HANNAH BATCHELDER.

Honred mother I give my Dutey to you hoping thefe Lyns will find you in Helth as they Leve me at present Confidering my furcomfance at this Time I Do hereby Inform you that my Husband is in the army at the weft-tord and fince he went from me it has plefd God who is the orther of our Beinges and has an uncontroulebel Right To give and Take away at his sovrend will and Plafuer our moft Neareft Company in this world and he has Taken all my Children away from me By Deth and I am Left Childlefs at this Time But Defier your Praing for me also Give my Respects to all Inquiring frends so no more at present But I Remain your Dutefull Child Tell Deth

Janey Perkins

Rindg Augst y^e 25 1777
To M^{rs} Hannar Batchelder in Topsfield

Topsfield November 27 Ad 1780 Deliverd to Jacob Towne Eight pare of stockings for the use of the Army

Topsfield March 16 Ad 1731 Received in full for the stockings of Jacob Towne I fay Received by me 8.00 Dolars

Elisbeth Emersen

SAMUEL HARRIS TO JACOB TOWNE.

To M^r Jacob Towns & his Wife

As an Opportunity now presents, we moft cheerfully embrace it to tranfmit thefe Lines to you, thereby both to testify our regard for & Friendfhip to you, & to acquaint you that we, through the goodness of the univerfal Benefactor of Mankind, are blefsed with Health & the Necefsaries & many of the comforts of Life, unfeignedly wishing thefe Lines may find you in the enjoyment of the fame Blefsings. we fhould be very glad to fee you here, & if you would take your Horfe & ride to Hopkinton & fee us it would afford us no small pleasure. we fhould be

glad also if you would write a Letter to us & leave it at m^r Clark's directly, that it may be brought by the Bearer hereof our Children give their regards to you so no more at this time from your Friends & well-wishers till Death

Samuel Harris

Abigail Harris

Hopkinton July 27, 1780

Brother Webber & his Sister with to be remembered to you

Topsfield July 16th 1781

Recieved of M^r Jacob Towne Eleven pound four Shillings and five pence his Quota towards hiring a Man for the Contin^l army

Thomas Porter

Saturday 23^d of November 1782

Jacob Towne of Topsfield Came to me and Informed me that his Brother William Perkins Departed this Life on Fryday so late that he Could not git prepared to bury him on Saterday and as the weather was warm it would be difficult to keep him till Monday, and defired me to grant him Liberty to bury his said Brother on the Lord's day

for these Reafons Licence is hereby granted to the Said Jacob Towne to Solemnize the funeral of the said William Perkins on Lords day Evening tomorrow, after the Exerfises of the Public worship of God is over

Topsfield Nov^r 23, 1782.

By me Sam^l Smith Just^o of Peace.

SAMUEL SPOFFORD TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Sir being Informed that you Intend Marrage to Miss Patty Baker and have been published to her as I have been before you but it is a matter Immeterial to me Notwithstanding I still have the best Right to her but if you will be so kind as to meet me at Major Parles and be so

generous as to make me an offer what you will give or take and the Party that takes fhall Drop the whole affare and Never trouble the other more but if you will not meet me at that place and Settle the matter you may Relie upon it that I fhall Proceed and Shall Still be a thorn in your Side, but if you will Come we will Settle matters with out any trouble I fhall Depend upon your Sending me an fwer what you will Do and In So Doing you will much Oblige your humble Servent

Samuel Spofford*

Rowley March y^e 1 : 1784
To Mr Joseph Towne.

PETITION OF JACOB TOWNE AND OTHERS.

Commonwealth of Mafsachufetts To the Honorable the Senate and Houfe of Representatives, in General Court afsembled.

The Petition of Jacob Towne of Topsfield, & others, humbly fhews That in march anno Domini 1781 your petitioners were clafsed by the selectmen of Topsfield to procure a man to ferve three years in the Continental army, agreeable to a refolve of the General Court of the Commonwealth; and Thomas Porter was appointed the head of our s^d Clafs. at our first Clafs meeting s^d Porter told the s^d Clafs it was not beft to be in too great hafte to procure a man, that he the s^d Porter would Clear the s^d Clafs for three hundred hard Dollars; which promise of s^d Porter fatisfied the Clafs, and was the fole reafon that they then delayed procuring a man for the afofaid fervice after a month or two had elapsed s^d Porter told the s^d Clafs He had procured them a man for the three years fervice, but they muft give him the s^d Porter four hundred hard Dollars, for the men muft be had, and were very hard to be found accordingly the Clafs, rather than be deficient in their duty, and their Country fuffer by their neglect, Complied with his extravagant demands, and all the money was advanced, or fecurity given for the fame on intereft by the middle of July 1781. From thence your Petitioners were led to conclude, they were not be-

*Martha Baker and Joseph Towne were married at Andover, Mar. 11, 1784.

hind the rest of their fellow subjects in exerting themselves & promoting their Countrys defence, but to their surprize and great disappointment they find their exertions were dormant, their Country injured, while their money was applied to private emoluments, and themselves liable to a penalty for deficiency, which is imputable to the wilful neglect of the aforesaid Porter only. wherefore your petitioners would approach your Honours, as the guardians of the rights & the protectors of the property of the subject, as men formed for the extirpation of fraud, & Iniquity, and to promote justice, honesty and virtue of every kind, and pray that your Honours in your wisdom, would grant your Petitioners, that the sd Porter refund to them their proportion of Thirty-four Pounds seven shillings with interest for the same, which the aforesaid Clafs paid the s^d Porter, on July aforesaid (more than the average price) and for the purpose aforesaid, and they in duty bound will ever pray.

Topsfield January, 1782.

Jacob Towne
John Cree 3^d
Thos Perkins
Zeblun Perkins

EZRA TOWNE TO JOSEPH TOWNE.

Loving Brothers I hope Throue The Devine goodnefs of God you and yours are in helth all Tho I am in a pore Stat of helth and have bin so for sum Time not able to Do aney Worck my Breathrean I have Sum very Disagreeable News to Right to you. Laft Week m^r Hawood Was at Noah Curtifes in Royalstown and Curtis Bid him Tell me my Brother Benja was not worth one peney in the word m^r Hawood Told him it Would be very Disagreeable News to Tell me of Curtes said if it Was it Was True and He Was a Brother of his as Well as mine and further said my Brother Was once a man of a good Stat But Now is Worfh nothing and further more Told m^r Hawood Benj^a Was in the New Stat and I beleve in a Very pore Seeteuation His Cufed Will hath brought him to this and you in to Los and Trouble my Brothers I feal

Sorey for you and I Hope God Will give you Wifdom to behave Wifley under the frown of Providance I know not what further to Right to you for my bodey and mind is Very Week so as my hands Tremble as I Right my Brother it Doth Look Very Strange my brother Eli Never Let you know what Seetuation Benja Was in if I Can git git so as to be able to Ride I shall Cum Down and See you in a Little While it is supposed it Will be for my helth to Ride I Do not knew but I shall go over and see Eli give my Love to my Sisters and Cufsons So I Conclude Wifhing all fouer of my bratheran Contentednefs of mind under Crofses So I Remain your Loving Brother Tell Death

New Ipswich augst 18, 1784

Ezra Towne

N. B. I am so as I Ride out Ever Day and I think I gain Sum Strength give my Love to Uncle Bragge

ABEL CUMMINGS TO ZEBULUN PERKINS.

Loving uncul & Aunt After my Due Respects to you I would In form you that we are all well and I Do Hope that Thefe hear few Lins Will find you so I have No News to Rite to you It is A general Time of Helth I hope that you Will be So Kind as to Weat upon me for I Find it Very Hard Setling the Debts I am A going to Pay the Ears of So as to Keep the Land I Will Settle With you as Soon as I Can Sir if you are Equanted With the People In Andever for thare Is one M^r Samuel Clark Lieve thear That ows me & Sir If you Will Inquire after him and find out Weather he is Worth any thing and Send me Word I will Reward you for it Money is Vary hard to be got but I Will Come Down and Settle With you as Soon as Pofable this M^r Clark Is a Large Man Wite Lite Cullered Hair and About 30 years old so No more at Prefent but I Remain your Loving Cozen Till Death

Abel Cummings

th
Douglafs December 14 1789

To Zeb. Perkins.

JACOB HOOD TO JACOB TOWNE 3D.

July 8th 1790

Yours of the 25th of June I Rec^d by my Brother and Considered my Self highly favoured to Receive a Line from a person that has Discovered Every Mark of Friendship to me that any person Could I Should be happy to Converse with you face to face but Since we are at such a Distance I must Rest Contented to Make letters the Messenger of my Real friendship to an Absent friend. be pleas^d to Give my best Regards to your parents and all Friends. I Never Expect to be Honoured with your Company at the Eastward

M^{rs} Hood Sends her Regards to you and your parents. Having Nothing further to offer I Coclude Regarting it as a favour that you would write Every Oppr^{ty} and Sir as you have ben Acquainted with my Ignorance before you will Not be Disapointed at the Incorrec^tness of these Lines I wish you Heath and wealth and a Dwelling in the Smiles of Cheurfullness your Friend

Jacob Hood

To Jacob Towne, 3d.

SOLOMON WILDES TO DR. JOHN MERRIAM.

Boston Febr'y ye 9th 1793

Dear Sir I have made enquiry at the several Bookstores relative to Books you mentioned. I found the price of Bailees Dictionary in the different Bookstores from 12/^s to 14/^s Brooks Practice in 2 vol 20/ and at one store 1 vol the price 8/^s Cullens practice of Phisick London Edition, 48/^s You may mention to Towne that I can have Rollens ancient Hiftory 10 vol 12^m for 50/^s Gibbons Roman History 12 vol 8 vo £6-0-0 the Hiftory of England by Hume Smallet and others Down to the Conclusion of the late war 16 vol 8^{vo} suppose they may be had £8-0-0 provided the other fett are taken with them.

Yours &c

S. Willes

Doct^r John Meriam
Topsfield.

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF JACOB TOWNE.

1793

Dec. 31 paid S. Willes 30/- borrowed of him Dec. 26.

Dec. 31 p^d to J. Andrews for a pamphlet /6^d

1794

Jan. 1	Paid 1/8 ^d to Mr Jacob Kimball for setting &c shoes on the Mare	0- 1- 8
	D ^o a ballance to Simeon Renny Jun /7 ^d	0- 0- 7
2	to Salem 12/-	0-12- 0
	D ^o to Betsy Roff 1/6	0- 1- 6
3	to Mr Kimball for a Bufhel of Rye bot this day of him	0- 6- 9
7	paid to Betsy Roff 4/7	0- 4- 7
13	paid Mrs. Mary Wildes for a Dunghill Cock 1/0	0- 1- 0
18	paid Stephen Cree for Thref hing &c this day ballance 1/6	0- 1- 6
Feb. 13	paid Ephraim Perkins 3/4 ¹ / ₂ ^d for half a bufhel of Rye bot 11 th	0- 3-4 ¹ / ₂
17	paid John Bradftreet Jun. 1/6 ^d being a ballance which he over paid for a finging Book	0- 1- 6
Mar. 8	paid Mrs. Cleveland 1/6 for making a Bonnet & ½ y ^d of Catgut	0- 1- 6
13	paid Mr. W ^m Carlton 13/4 in full for the Mercury the last year ending Feb. 1, 1794, printed by A. Young of Boston	0-13- 4
14	paid Mr. Kimball for pint of W. I. Rum & ½ p ^t N. E. R.	0- 1- 2
15	p ^d Jos. Andrews 6/5 for a bushel of Rye	0- 6- 5
	D ^o paid a ballance 2/0 to J. Andrews	0- 2- 0
31	bot 8 ³ / ₄ lbs. of german Steel at 9 ^d lb. 6/7	0- 6- 7
Apr. 2	p ^d Deacon Dodge 26/5	1- 6- 5
7	p ^d A. Smith of Ipswich /11 for a scrow pin to a Gun lock	11
7	p ^d at the Probate office 9/	0. 9. 0
25	p ^d Eph. Perkins	0.16. 0
28	p ^d Jos. Andrews for Bushel Rye &c	0. 6. 5

Apr. 28	p ^d for meafureing at Bare Hill 9 ^d	0. 0. 9
May 28	p ^d Charles Rogers 1/6 ^d for picking rocks	0. 1. 6
	D ^o p ^d 1/2 for fish bot of Amos Smith	0. 1. 2
June 4	p ^d John Conant 4/4 in full for Black-smithing	0. 4. 4
	D ^o p ^d Rob ^t Perkins Jun. in full for the Town Tax for the year 1794—	
	Ballance having p ^d 12/ before	1. 9. 6
7	p ^d S. Willes 2/ for Paper & 1/6 for 3 Hiftorical Pamphlets	0. 3. 6
	D ^o bot. of J. Rust (Salem) a Sutton Hoe	0. 3. 6
14	p ^d Eph. Andrews 3/7 for work & 3 Dollars borrowed of him Apr. 1 in full of Accounts	1. 1. 7
16	p ^d Stp. Perkins 1/6	0. 1. 6
19	p ^d Justice Cleaveland for swearing 2 appraifers	0. 1.1½
27	p ^d Hepse Andrews 1/6 in full	0. 1. 6
July 1	p ^d Daniel Averell Jun 7/2½ ^d in full for Sawing	0. 7.2½
17	p ^d Miles Ward 30/ for 500 Merchantable & 3/9 for 100 refufe Boards	1.13. 9
23	p ^d Israel Herrick (Boxford) 18/ for a Barrel of Cyder & 3/9 for the Barrel	1. 1. 9
7	p ^d at the Probate office 2.7½ ^d	0. 2.7½
Aug 30	p ^d W. Carlton for binding the 2 ^d Vol. of Hist. Col.	0. 3. 0
Sept, 2	p ^d Ephraim Wildes 7/6 in part	0. 7. 6
10	p ^d Robert Perkins Jun in full for the State Tax Dated Dec. 4, 1793	0.19. 9
Nov. 1	p ^d J. Andrews for his steers to Salem this day	0. 1. 0
3	p ^d Z. Perkins 29/6 in full for three barrels of Cyder	1. 9. 6
	D ^o p ^d Eph. Wildes 9/10 in full	0. 9.10
5	p ^d Mrs. Andrews 3/7 for Interest in full	0. 3. 7
8	p ^d Mofes Bradftreet in full of all accounts 3/	0. 3. 0

Nov. 19	p ^d for a Bushel of Rye bot this day at Mofes Gould's	0. 7. 6
21	p J. Andrews Six Dollars for a load of salt hay	1.16. 0
	D ^o p ^d J. Andrews 2/9 ^d	0. 2. 9
22	p ^d L ^t Adams 16/8 ^d for 12½ lbs of Sole Leather	0.16. 8
	D ^o p ^d Mrs. Merriam for making a Cloak 1/4	0. 1. 4
Dec. 11	p ^d Ezra Perkins in part of the Town Tax two Dollars	0.12. 0
24	Bot a Pencil with a Cafe 1/6 and a Penknife 1/6	0. 3. 0
26	p ^d 4/ for Eph. Perkins helping make wall two days	0. 4. 0
31	p ^d John Conant for Blacksmithing in full 7/1	0. 7. 1
1795		
Feb. 23	p ^d Sufanna Farnum 7/6 Ballance for a Braf's Kettle	0. 7. 6
Mar. 4	p ^d Bimsly Peabody for 3 skins wash Leather	0. 4. 6
Mar. 9	p ^d for 3 Bushels of Rye bot at Mr. Kimball's	1. 2. 6
Mar. 11	p ^d Elijah Averell for puting in an Axletree	0. 2. 0
Mar. 14	p ^d Jonas Meriam for mending a Chain & 2 Cart Nails	0. 0. 9
Apr. 10	p ^d Z. Perkins 5/7 for himself, oxen & drafts to Salem & helping load a log	0. 5. 7
	D ^o p ^d W. Carlton for a Perry's Dictionary	0. 5. 6
May 5	p ^d Deacon Dodge 26/4 & 1/½	1. 7.4½
May 14	Bot of Z. Perkins a Barrel of Cyder	
19	p ^d Step. Cree for helping dung out this day	0. 2. 8
June 8	p ^d Afa Porter for swingling flax this day	0. 2. 6
20	p ^d Mr Porter for hoeing—46. for making wall	0. 4. 6

Sep. 29	p ^d Dr Meriam 1/2 ^{1d} & Oct. 1 p ^d 5/3 ^{1d} in full for half a Barrel of Cyder Bot Sept. 1, having paid 1/ before	0. 7. 6
Oct. 1	p ^d Mr Kimball seting 2 Shoes 9 ^d	0. 0. 9
2	p ^d Jacob Peabody 2/— in full for a peck of Rye bot sometime since	0. 2. 0
3	Bot of Cushing & Carlton an Account Book	0. 2. 3
3	p ^d S. Willes 1/6 ^{1d} in full of a ballance of a shere in a Ticket in Hartford State House Lottery	0. 1.6 ^{1d} ₈
Dolls. Cts.		
Oct. 6.	Bot of A. Northey a Coffee Mill, A Pewter Bason, 1/8 ^d	1. 0.
	Of Mrs. Northey a pair of Decanters	2. 0.
Oct. 22.	Bot 6 Thousand of Shingles of Mr. Groce, 17 ^{Dolls} Paid in part 12 Dol- lars—Paid in full.	
	D ^o Bot of Gen. Abbot 7 Thousand of Shingle nails at 7/1 ^d & 1 Hundred of Bord nails	
Nov. 21.	Paid Charles Rogers in full 15/6 ^d	
D ^o	p ^d Ezra Perkins 32/5 in full for the School Houfe Tax having paid 2/4 before	
D ^o	Bot two Bushels of Turnips 3/2	0. 50
1796		
March 23.	p ^d Jonas Meriam 20 Cents	0. 20
D ^o	p ^d Jos. Dorman 50 Cents for Barthol- omew Conant's helping draw a log to Low's Mill & 1 from Boxford woods to near Amos Gallop's	0. 50
March 24.	p ^d Deacon Dodge for Interest in full	4. 40
April 22.	Bot a Hat of Mr. Young at Salem 21/	3. 50
May 30.	p ^d Nathan Dow for Sawing 472 feet of Oak Boards	1. 36
D ^o	p ^d John Conant for half a Bushel of Rye	0. 75
June 10.	p ^d Royal A. Meriam for picking rocks 3 days	0. 50

June 14.	p ^d Mr Macanaulty for binding Historical Collections 2 Vols. in one 4/	0. 67
Do.	Bot Harris' System of Punctuation	0. 12½
June 16.	p ^d Simon Gould Jun. the State Tax for 1795 in full	3. 82
21.	p ^d for Mr Ames' Speech delivered in Congress	0. 25
July 12.	Bot of A. Northey Set of Knives & Forks	1. 25
Sept. 5.	Bot of Eb. Bowditch a pair of Buckles	2. 0
Do	—— of Ropes a pair of Buckles for Lydia	1. 25
10.	p ^d John Balch for tanning & currying 2 calf skins & currying one side of Leather in full 8/6	1. 41½
23.	p ^d Dudley Wildes for mowing &c Aug. 22. at Hafsoky Meadows	75
Oct ^r 4.	Paid Mr Huntington 20/2 for a share in the Library	3. 33½
20.	Bot of Jn ^o Gardner a pair of stockings, silk & worsted,	1. 26½
Nov. 11.	Bot of Mr Lampson of Beverly a Hat for Lydia	3. 0
1797		
Jan. 9.	p ^d Eph. Perkins 4/1½ for Drawing 16½ ft. Timber to Salem	
Jan. 12.	p ^d Eph. Perkins for helping load & Draw a log to near new mills, yesterday being Jan. 11 th in full 9/6	2. 27
Jan. 14.	p ^d Mr. Kimball for shoeing the steers yesterday	1. 0
Jan. 16.	p ^d Elisha Perkins for his oxen to the new mills Jan. 11 th	0. 27½
24.	p ^d Simon Gould Jun. the remainder of the Town Tax for 1795 in full 1 Doll & 70 Cts. having p ^d 5 Dollars before	1. 70
24.	p ^d S. Gould Jun 2/ in part of the Town Tax for 1796	0. 33½

Jan. 24.	D ^o p ^d 1 Doll. & 5 Cts in full for Adam Rofs's making two Barrels Nov ^r 1796	1. 5
27.	Bot 8 Bushels of Rye at 8/ p ^r Bushel	10. 66 $\frac{2}{3}$
Feb. 4.	p ^d M ^r Brickett a Note 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dolls principal, Total	28. 65
8.	p ^d M ^r . Sawyer Ju ^r Adm ^r to Mr. Pierpont's Estate for Eliza & Lydia Towne in full for their share of a Bond	67. 73
Feb. 28.	p ^d Mr Kimball two dozen of ox helves in full for an ax bot of him Jan ^y 26 th	1. 50
Mar. 11.	p ^d Ben. Kimball for mowing July 21, 1796	0. 83
16.	Paid Simon Gould Ju ⁿ part of the Town Tax for 1796	0. 83
24.	Paid John Balch for Currying a fide of Leather	0. 41 $\frac{1}{2}$
May 5.	P ^d Benj. Hobbs for grafting afternoon	0. 50
18.	P ^d Dea ⁿ Dodge for Interest in full	4. 40
19.	p ^d Mr. Kimball for 2 new & feting 2 shoes on the Mare	0. 75
31.	p ^d Roger Balch for Taxes for Lydia's upper field	0. 33
June 8.	p ^d Simon Gould Jun. ballance in full for the Town Tax in 1796	2. 79 $\frac{1}{2}$
13.	p ^d T. Perkins Jun. for 4 Milk pans	0. 50
27.	p ^d Simon Gould Jun. for the State Tax for 1796, in full	3. 68
July 29.	Bot a pair of Paniards of Mr Butman, p ^d in full	2. 0
Sep.. 13.	Bot a Bottle of British oil 1/6	0. 25
14.	Paid John Balch for Currying a Calf skin in full	0. 25
14.	Paid Amos Foster in full for 30 lb of Pork bot of him Aug. 22, 25/	4. 17
15.	Paid Z. Perkins for pair of wheels to Salem July 29 th in full	0. 20
Oct. 7.	Bot a pair of steelyards of A. Northey, p ^d in full	1. 0

Oct. 7.	D ^o at Mr Mansfield's a Muslin Handkerchief, L. T.	0. 83
Sept. 30.	p ^d Young & Minns in full for the Mercury	2. 31
30.	Bot of E. Larkin, Morfe's Gazetteer at B. Rufsel's, Correspondence between Adet & Pickering	2. 0
	at John West's an Ink horn	0. 10
	at Gridley & Nolen's a Jacket Pattern	0. 18 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Bot $\frac{1}{2}$ of Adams' Defence with Mr. Willes in equal halves	0. 62 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oct. 9.	p ^d John Conant in full for a Gridiron	2. 0
	D ^o p ^d Mr S. Willes in full for money borrowed	1. 0
10.	p ^d Royal A. Meriam in full, 6/1	13. 20
12.	p ^d Amos Gallop for 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb beef at 4 ^d 11/2 ^d	1. 0
12.	p ^d Zeb Perkins in as ballance of accounts	1. 06
12.	p ^d Z. Perkins for sawing this day	18. 43
13.	p ^d Mr. Carleton (of Hamstead) in full for 4 barrels of Cyder	0. 50
14.	Cash p ^d A. Porter 2/3	13. 32 $\frac{1}{2}$
31.	Cash p ^d Deacon S. Dodge in p ^t for a Note of hand	0. 37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Nov. 6.	Cash p ^d Deacon Dodge in part for a Note of hand	20. 10
19.	p ^d Jacob Clarke in full of all accounts	30. 0
24.	Bot of J. Ramsdell two hen Turkies, p ^d in full	1. 22
21.	Paid J. Andrews in part of the Town Tax	1. 17
Dec. 13.	p ^d D. Balch for peck lime 1/ & mending crack in Chimney 1/9 ^d	6. 0
20.	p ^d Elisha Perkins for 6 sheep in full	0. 29
23.	p ^d Amos Foster for a Bushel of Rye	11. 50
1790		1. 31 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jan. 4.	p ^d Mr. Noyes for copy of Hafsoky meadow lots	0. 10

Jan.	11.	p ^d Wid ^o Bree for Gown making &c	0. 25
	23.	p ^d Jonas Meriam for a Loggerhead	0. 22
Feb.	1.	p ^d Register of Deeds for searching the Records	0. 20
	2.	Bot 3 Bushel of Rye p ^d Elijah Brad- street	4. 0
	7.	p ^d Sol. Averell for Chopping wood 2/6	0. 41½
	21.	p ^d Mr. Emerson in full for a Cow Ten Dollars (he having allowed 6 Dollars for making wall to fence out the Road Total for the Cow 16 Dols.)	10. 00
Mar.	31.	p ^d Endicott for currying a calf skin	0. 21
Mar.	6.	Pd Jos. Andrews in full for the Town Tax	5. 63
	6.	P ^d 2/9 ^d for Nath. Fisk Jun. making a pair of Cloth Shoes L. T.	0. 45¾
Feb.	27.	Bot 4 Bushels of Rye meal p ^d D ^r Meriam of Middleton	5. 17
May	11.	p ^d M ^{rs} M. Williams for altering &c a Bonnet 6/6	1. 8¼
	22.	Bot No. 1 Vol. 5 of Historical Col- lections	0. 25
	29.	Bot Harper's Address to his Constitu- ents in May 1797	0. 31

Account of Payments Rec^d

1794

Jan.	1	Major Gould p ^d for a singing Book	0. 4. 6
	2	Mr. Roger Balch paid for a singing Book	0. 4. 6
	3	Mr. A. Conant paid for a singing Book	0. 4. 6
	7	Oliver Perkins Jun. paid for a sing- ing Book	0. 4. 6
	10	Jofhua Towne paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
	14	David Perkins Jun. paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
	D ^o	Jos. Averell paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
	22	John Bradstreet 2 ^d paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6

Feb. 12	Mr. Moses Perkins p ^d for a finging ing Book	0. 4. 6
8	Mr. Aaron Conant paid 6/3 ^d for his his part of the Mercury the year past ending Feb. 2 ^d	0. 6. 8
21	Nath ^l P. Averell paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
Mar. 4	John Conant 2 ^d paid for a finging Book	0. 4. 6
7	Abraham Hobbs Jun. p ^d for finging Book	0. 4. 6
31	Rec ^d 26/5 ^d for 42 feet of White Oak Timber	1. 6. 5
Apr. 25	Rec ^d 23/2 ^d for 38½ feet of White Oak Timber	1. 3. 5
May	Mr A. Conant p ^d 1/8 for his part of the Mercury one quarter	
1794		
June 3	Rec ^d of Eben Pope of Salem 13¾ Dol- lars for Hay sold to him this day 13 C & ¾	4. 2. 6
27	R. Perkins Jun. p ^d for a Calfskin & for a Kip skin	0. 5. 3 0. 5. 0
July 10	Mr P. Woodberry p ^d 4 dollars as bal- lance of Acc ^{ts}	1. 4. 0
7	Mr Briggs p ^d 52/ for 80 feet of Tim- ber	2. 12 0
Sept. 1	Rec ^d of Roger Balch 7/ in full for two pigs he bot June 13	0. 7. 0
9	Rec ^d of P. Woodberry Six Dollars for half a Thousand of Hogshead Staves	1. 16. 0
Oct. 6	Rec ^d of Thos. Kimball 6/ & 7 rec ^d 8/3 for about 24 feet of white oak Timber	0. 14. 3
7	Rec ^d of P. Woodberry for 3½ hundred of Hogshead Staves	1. 4. 0
Nov. 1	Capt. Jona. Peele p ^d for 6½ ft of Bark	1. 10. 0
Dec. 2	Jos. Averell p ^d 2/ for his part of a quarter of a Ticket in Hartford State House Lottery	0. 2. 0

- Dec. 26 Rec^d of Cornelius Cree two Dollars
in part for his Improvement of the
Mine Lot the last Season 0. 12. 0
- 1795
- Jan. 29 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ C Hay sold to James Dunlap at
19 Dollars per Ton 4. 15. 5
- Mar. 2 Sold 26 feet white Oak Timber to E.
Batchelder, Rec^d payment 0. 18. 10
- 12 Sold to Mr Becket 24 feet of White
Oak & 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. yellow oak Timber
24/9. Rec^d payment April 1st 1. 4. 9
- Apr. 10 Sold to Mr Becket 51 feet of white
oak. Rec^d Payment 1. 18. 3
- 30 Rob^t Perkins Jun. p^d for a Cow hide
and a Calf skin & 1 little one 1. 2. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
- May 5 Rob^t Perkins Jun. p^d for a heifers hide 0. 10. 6
- 1795
- June 9 Rec^d at Carlton's 13/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ being the Sum
due as a prize for a Quarter of a
Ticket in Hartford State House
Lottery No. 12795—Belonging to
S. Willes J. Towne, 3^d, J. Averell
& J. Conant.
- Sept. 22 Cornelius Cree p^d one Dollar in part
for his improvement of the Mine
Lot in 1794.
- Oct. 3 Sold to Dr Long, 5 lb for me & 3 lb
for Lydia of Beeswax at 2/7^d p lb. 1. 0. 8
- Tub of Honey, the whole 38 lb. the
Tub 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The Honey 39 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. 1. 11. 11
- For Lydia, the Whole 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb the Tub
6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. The Honey 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Rec^d
Payment 0. 18. 8
- Oct. 6 Sold two Dozen of Fowls—6 Dollars
- Oct. 16 Cornelius Cree p^d two Dollars in full
for his Improvement of the Mine
Lot in 1794
- 1796
- Apr. 21 K. Perkins Jun. p^d for a Cow hide 3
Dollars.

ISAAC AVERILL TO JACOB TOWNE.

Dartmouth University May

Respected Friend.

With pleasure I dedicate these few lines to you, flattering myself they will meet your approbation, especially that part which shall treat of my removal to Cambridge University.

At present my health* is not so good as I could wish ; but perhaps owing to hard study. My mental powers being debilitated may excuse me from that accuracy which you might otherwise expect.

I would inform you that in the Last Wednesday of this month our class will have a public exhibition in the Chapel which is a customary, annual appointment for the Sophomore classes.

As epistles are not commonly for the prefs, we write upon as many topics as fancy dictates. Great is the advantage put in our hands to get wisdom ; but knowledge is not to be obtained only by close application and industry ; but the application of four years runs almost imperceptibly away, and we scarcely know that we have learnt any thing ; the comprehension or knowledge of one thing is only opening the door for the investigation of another, the more vacuums or windows to the field of science greater are the splendid refractions of light.

Left I should not have room, to discuss the first mentioned subject, I with pleasure resume the Theme. One of my class-mates is about removing to Cambridge, and I expect, if life and health permit, to be his company.

We think it proper, together with judicious and friendly advice, to enter there at Commencement time. If this plan meets with success, I shall come home so as to enter at commencement.

Much more might be said ; but perhaps not without impropriety, and intruding upon epistolary writing, I shall conclude by subscribing myself your friend.

Isaac Averell.

P. S. Send me a line as soon as may be convenient.

[To] Mr. Jacob Towne tertius, Topsfield.

*See Topsfield Historical Collections, Vol. 17, p. 72.

ABNER HOOD TO JACOB TOWNE.

Worthy Friend These moments I spend with pleasure to Inform you I am well ; & hope My lines will find you and your Connections the same ; I have not been so happy as to Receive one line from you since I have been in this Country, though with pleasure I have written you a Number of letters but Still—the Regard I have for you I Cannot Tax you with too much Unkindness for when I contemplate on your friendship in past times It makes Compensation for Future deficiency. I have Nothing of Importance To Inform You of at present.

As to my practice I have had & Continue to have Considerable for a Young man & have had Very good success which seems to Support my practice being in great hurry I must close Subscribing my self your friend and well wisher.

Abner Hood

Edgecombe 4 June 1795

P. S. Give my best Regards to your parents & tell them I want very much to see them & hope It will be in my power this Summer

[To] Mr Jacob Towne, Topsfield.

JOSEPH ANDREWS TO MRS. LYDIA TOWNE.

Topsfield June the 18 day 1795

Madam I take this opportunity again to remind [you of] your Solemn promises & engagements relative to your marrying me which sd promises I shall insist of holding you to and should you attempt marriage with any other person I shall pursue the Steps of the Laws of the Land have pointed out in such Cases

Yours &c Joseph Andrews
to mrs Lydia Towne in Topsfield.

ASAHEL SMITH TO JACOB TOWNE.

Tunbridge Jan^r 14th 1796

Respected Sir

having a favorable opportunity altho on very short Notice, I with Joy & gratitude embrace it. Returning hearwith

my most hartly thanks for your Respect Shone in your faver of the 30th of Nov^r by m^r Willes which I view as a Singular Specimen of friendfhip which has very Little bean practised by any of my frinds in Topsfield, altho often requested

My famely is all, threw the goodnefs of the Divine Benediction, in a Tolerable good State of health and Desier to be remembered to you and to all inquiring frinds

I have set me up a New house, sence mr wildes was heer, and expect to remove into it Next Spring, and to begin again on an intire new farme and my Son Joseph will Live on the old farme (if this that has bean but 4 year occupied Can be Called old) and Carry it on at the halves, which half I hope will nearly furnish my famely with food, whilst I with my four youngest Sons shall in-deaver to Bring to a Nother farme &c

as to nuse, I have nothing, as I know of, worth notising, except that grain has taken a sudden rice amongst us about one third

as to the Jacobine party they are not very numerous hear, or if they are they are pretty still, there is Some in this State (viz) in Bennington, who Like other Children Crying for a Rattle have Blared out against their Rulers, in hopes to rest from them if possible, what they esteem, the plaything of power & trust. But they have Bean pretty well whipt, and have Become Tolerabley Quiet again and I am in hopes if they Live to arive at the years of Disgreffion. when the empier of reason shall take place, that they will then become good members of Societty notwithstanding their noisey nucious behaviour in their childhood, for which they was neither capable of hearing or giving aney reason

for my part I am so willing to trust the government of the world in the hands of the Supream ruler of universal Nature, that I Do not at present wish to try to wrist it out of his hands, and I have so much Confidence in his abilities to teetch our Senetors wisdom, that I Do not think it worth while for me to intirpose from the Little Stock of knowledge that he has favered me with in the affair, either one way or the other. he has Conducted us

threw a glorious revelution and has Brought us into the promised Land of peace & Liberty, and I Believe that he is about to Bring all the world into the Same Beatitude in his own time & way which, altho his way appear never so inconsistant to our Bliend reason, yet may be perfectly Consistent with his Designs and I Believe that the Stone is now Cut out of the mountain without hands, spoken of by Daniel and his Smitten the image upon his feet, By which the iron, the Clay, the Brass, the Silver, and the gold (viz) all monarical and eccliesastical Terony will be Broken to peaces and Becom as the Chaff of the Summer Thrashing flore the wind Shall carry them all away that there shall be no place found for them

Give my Best regards to your parents and tell them that I have taken up with the Eleventh Commandment that the Negro Tought to the minister, which was thus the minister asked the Negro how maney commandments there was, his answare was, Eleven Sir. aye, replyd the other, what is the Eleventh, that is one I Never heard of the Eleventh Commandment, Sir, is, miend your own Businefs.

So I Chuse to Do, and give my Self but Little Concernes about what pases in the political world. I expect my Son Joseph* will be maried in a few days. give my Best regards to Dr Meriam, mr Willes, Joseph Dorman, and mr Cree, and tell mr Cree I thank him for his respects and hope he will accept of mine. write to me as often & as Large as you can and oblige your Sincear frind & well wisher

mr Jacob Town Ju^r

Asahel Smith

[On page 2] give my harty thanks to mr Charles Rogers for his Respect shown in writing me a few Lines and tell him that I Should a wrote to him now had I had Time But Now Wave it for the present, as I have Considerable part of what I intend to you

if I Should Live & Do well I expect to Come to Topsfield my Self next winter, which if I Do I Shall Come and pay you a visit. fair well

tell mr Joseph Cree that if he will Come hear and Set

*The father of Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism.

up his trade I will warrant him as much work as he can Do, and good pay.

[To] Mr Jacob Town Topsfield Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SAMUEL BRADSTREET

Imports directly from the Manufacturers of *London, Bristol, Birmingham* and *Sheffield*, and has for Sale, by Wholesale or Retail, as cheap as sold in *Boston*,

A great Variety of Hardware Goods, consisting of Bristol Crown Glafs of all fizes—Brafs Kettles and Warming Pans—London and Bristol Pewter—Church Flaggons, Chriftening Bafons, Tankards and Cups—Shot and Lead—German and Englifh Steel—Smiths' Anvils and Vices—Sheet Iron—Seine Twine—best of large Corn Fans, &c, &c.

N. B. Cafh given for Old Pewter and Brafs.

[On reverse] "Charlestown April 6th, 1797 4 Corn Fans at 24/ £4.16.0

Received payment Saml Bradstreet.

Boston November the 5th 1797

Worthy misf yours I Received with transports of Joy I broke Open the feals with modesty and Decency and my greedy Eyes soon Devour'd the Lines of profound wisdom there worthy to be Drawn in Letters of gold o thou Epitomy of Nature whose Beauty exceeds that of owls of Batts of harpes and of all the Rest of winged monsters and if I furvey the morpelite animals, such as poine hedghogs monkeys apes and the Like I find they are mean compared with the and if I view the fish that glide up and Down the silver streams and cut the foaming waves In the anclantic ocean such as haddock phlace and flounders I should find them unclean Compared with the who can help admiring a creature whose Beauty far surpases all the Excrementious throngs of ternal mumies and whose smiles far Exceeds the ugly grinnings of the Babboons of tartarys methinks Nature hath Done Its work to pantilia in

the form of your Beautifull Body and hath furnished
 your mind with Excelent Qualifications in arts and science
 and if you proceed Peradventure you will fhortly be fit
 for a Climate where arts And sciences are wholly usefles
 From your Friend

ANNE PERKINS TO MOLLY PERKINS.

Loving coufin after my love to you I would inform
 you that I am well and hope these few lines will find you
 so I want to see more than I ever did but dont know
 when I shall I have no news to write to you only Betty
 Sweat was married laft winter and moved to Wafington
 the twenty fecond day of June remember me to my
 cousin foster tell her I want to see her very much write
 me a letter as soon as you can to let me know how you
 do so no more at prefent but I remain your coufin

Unity Auguft 15

Anne Perkins

To Mifs Molly Perkins.

ELIJAH TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Sturbridge, Nov 13th 1800

Honord Uncle

An opportunity presenting I now embrace it to write a
 few lines to you hoping they may find you in good heaith
 as they at present leave me I have to inform you of the
 death of My father who died about three week past after
 a sicknefs of three weeks his disorder was the gravel

I wish you to write to me first opportunity you have
 for I wish to hear from my friends

I remain your loving Nephew

Mr Jacob Towne

Elijah Towne

REV. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON TO JOSEPH CREE.

Topsfield 28th Augst, 1802

Sir

I expect to complete the month at this houfe on Wednes-
 day next. On Thursday next I hope to be ready to begin
 the school near the meeting houfe if the committee pleefe.

I forgot to call this morning at your house & give you this information.

I send you this word that you may put up a notification to-morrow.

Your humble Serv^t

[To] Mr Joseph Cree.

Afahel Huntington

DAVID BALCH TO JACOB TOWNE.

Topsfield February : 2th 1803

kind Sir I now take this opportunity to tell you of Ben Grays be havers at School he Pushed our Polly up a ginf the foor Door & hurt hir very much in going out of the Door, Elisha Huntiton he laid him over the toop of the iner Door on his Bowels to Day noon. if their is not a meediat Stoop Putt to Such Behavior I feer murder must take Plais. he ought not for to be left in the School hous at noon. I See no beter way than the way you Did yesterday turn theas Large ones out of the School, from a friend I wifh you well m^r Town if mine Donte behav weell I wifh to now it

David Balch.

I wish you would order the large ones out of the School house the first, or gray will run over you as he did over m^r Stetson

To M^r Jacob Town Topsfield

ASA WILDES TO JACOB TOWNE.

Topsfield March the 8th 1803

M^r Towne many have thought you could not work the following Sum that I understand M^r T Cummings sent to you I think you Can work it and I would be very glad if you would be send me the work at large.

Suppose I exchange 4£ 10s 10^d for 11 Crowns and 4 Dollars and at another time I have 4 Crowns and 3 Dollars for 1£ 15s each being of the same value with the first what is the value of a Crown and of a Dollar.

Your humble Servant

Asa Wildes

It is Night and my pen is poor and I have not time to write any more

SYLVANUS WILDES TO JACOB TOWNE.

Boston Feb^{ry} y^e 7th 1803

Sir

I take this oportunity to mention some few occurran-
cies. you see by the papers the turn the election took,
but I hope the next as (Foster is expected every day to
send in his Refignation) will terminate in favour of Tim-
othy — I expect prtly warm work this week and next
relative to Princes Turnpike which will be vehemently
opposed by Efsex Bridge and Salem Turnpike Corpora-
tions they looked on princes project as chymerical un-
till he had leave to bring in a bill and finding the sudden
sale of the shares.

Princes Turnpike consists of 1000 shares which makes
100 000 Dollars 60 000 Dollars was subscribed in Boston
in half a day and all the shares taken up in one day if he
would have disposed of them Prescot on saturday when
he first understood the rapid sale of the shares in a very
solemn manner moved for a reconsideration of a vote for
giving leave to bring in a bill, or for a time to be asigned
for discussing of the propriety of giving leave to bring
in a bill neither of which obtained. Thorndike seems
violently agitated, but seems to be the agitation of despair.
the Boston seat I think will be unanimous in support of it
particular will [it] be ably advocated by Mefers Otis &
Lowell the latter of whom I heard tell Prescot, that had
In general been pretty indifferent relative to the Transac-
tions of the present sesion but on this subject he was
determined to exert all his tallants.

I have at several different times Conversed with Capt
Prince and have twice seen his plan. he says he must
vary it fifty or sixty rods to the eastward in order for
better ground, and avoid Lynn ridge—the five last miles
are the worst part of the way but practicable—the five
first he says that 30 rods one way or the other out of a
straight line would be impracticable.

N. B. he has the every mile marked with its number
laid down on his plan and the kind of Land.

From yours &c

Sylvanus Wildes

To Jacob Towne

you are hereby warned to meet at the usual Place of Parade in Topsfield on wednesday the 19th at 10 of the clock A. M. with arms Complete for training as the law directs and there wait further orders by order of Capt John Bradstreet Topsfield

October 14th 1803

Bishop Bordman

Topsfield Jan 25th 1804

Sir,

The committee for visiting schools, have concluded to visit your school tomorrow at 3 o'clock P. M.

I should have given you the notice a day or two sooner, but thro forgetfulness I have neglected it.

Yours respectfully

A. Huntington.

Mr Jacob Towne 3^d

EDMOND TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Windsor, Vermont, March 23, 1811

Respected friend

gladly do I imbrace the present opportunity to send you A line to let you know that we are well, hope this will find you so. I should be very glad to once more Visit my friends at Topsfield, but age prevents me. I lately heard that my Brother Elijah was very sick and not likely to live. I want you should write to me and let me know wether he is living or not, for I feel anxious to hear from him to know wether he is in the land of the living. I should be very glad to have you come and visit me, if you ever have opportunity. Was I young as you are the length of the way would be no hindrance to me. I would soon see you, but old age deprives us of the pleasures of youth and we must submit to it. Please to remember my love and your Aunts to Sister Perkins. our Love to you all and wishes for your welfare this from your uncle

Edmond Towne

[To] Mr. Jacob Towne

Topsfield Massachusetts

Take Notice

The subscribers Respectfully informe their friends and the Publice that they have Constantly for Sale at there Shop in Perkins row So Called a quantity of Saddles and bridles Neatly ornimented which they offer for Sale Cheap for Cash or approved Credit for Ninety days

Take Notice

Cafh and the highest Price given for all kind of har-nice Leather at there shop Also at there office upstairs over s^d Shop Commifsion given to quartermasters

George Thomas

John Perkins, Jun.

Topsfield, March 13th 1815

MR. NEHEMIAH CLEAVELAND TO JACOB TOWNE.

Boston 23^d Jan 1816

Dear Sir

Inclosed I send you a very rough draft of a *bill* I wish [you] to examine and alter and correct it and transcribe it, so as to have it ready for me when I come home. I did think of adding a sectⁿ to provide a penalty but upon reflection I have thought it not best. I am persuaded it would not pass & it would create some suspicion of bad design. I send you some papers which you may look over & hand some of them to my wife. There are many petitions presented respecting the sub. I hope your Petⁿ will come on soon. I understand by a letter from Mr Hurlbutt that you propose to have your Petⁿ is to be signed by the Committee of the morral evil I think that will do very well. I understand there was to be a convenⁿ on the subject today at Topsfield. I hope it will be or has been well attended especially by Topsfield men. What success will attend the exertions is difficult to predict—I fear not great—there is a committee to whom all these pet^{ns} are committed the comm^{tee} are Cleaveland & Adams of the Senate and Doolittle of Belchertown Levi Lincoln of Worcester and Knap of Nport on the part of the house no

doubt the committee or majority of them would agree to an efficient report, but there is no probability of carrying any thing very important through the Court. there appears a very great hostility to giving the Tything Men much power. If the collector of direct taxes has been to Topsfield I hope you took a memorandum of my taxes as well as your own. I believe Exchequer bills may be bought at from 8 to 10 discount. More of this when I see you. Yours with much esteem.

N. Cleaveland.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR A BIBLE FOR THE PULPIT.

We the subscribers engage to pay the several sumes affixed to our names for the purpose of purchasing a Bible for the pulpit in Topsfield

Names	Sumes	Names	Sumes
Nellie Hood	50	Mehetabel Gould	50
Ruth Emerson	75	Sophia Gould	50
Lucy Cleaveland	50	Lydia Peabody	50
Mary Cleaveland	50	Annar Pingree	50
Lydia Bradstreet	50	Sarah Pike	50
Almira Meriam	50	Mary Balch	25
Betsey Perley	1 00	Sarah Balch	25
Esther Wildes	50	Sally Gray	25
Susan Wildes	50	Huldah Gould	50
Mary Towne	50	Eunice Gould	50
Ruth Hood	50	Susan Cummings	50
Betsey Symonds	50	Sally Rea	50
Abigail Hammond	50	Mercea Lamson	75
Ruth Bradstreet	50	Harriet Josephine Emer-	
Nabby Perkins	50	son	75
Elisabeth Perkins	50	Eunice Conant	25

The Bible was placed in the Pulpit June 23, 1816.

Topsfield April 11 1821

To Mr Frederick Hood

Sir having Received a letter from you dated March 15 requesting us to give you Some information whether

Mess. John Hood William Perkins Phillip McKenzie and Doct Frederick Meriam were living and if a live where they lived Sir we have made some considerable inquiraes respecting the above named persons and can inform you that M^r John Hood is a live and lives in Topsfield Massachusetts State. M^r Phillip McKenzie was alive last September and was then living in the town of Waltham near Vergennes in the State of Vermont. M^r Perkins is dead. we are of the opinion that you must have refference to Doct John Meriam, instead of Frederick Meriam, as there was a Doct John Meriam in Topsfield, but he is dead, he has been dead about three years. Their is no Doct Frederick Meriam in the Town nor never was.

JACOB PERKINS TO JACOB TOWNE.

Unity Oct. 25th 1824.

Very Dear friend.

I set out for the western contry 24th last May with my wife little waggon and two horses and arived at Philadelphia in nine days 321 miles stayed with Joseph four days then set out for Ohio and arived at Scipio in seventeen days 495 miles stayed with my children M. Ray and Hannah nine days July 5th set out for Darby where Br. Elisha's folks live and arived 10th in the morning 114 I was so sick while there that I never expected to get-away but God was merciful and blessed the means that woore used and I recovered so as to set out for home July 22nd and arived to my family in peace August 21st about one O'clock for which mercy I had great reason to be thankful.

I was so weak when I set out for home that I could but just get into the waggon when I got home I was some better I have been worse and better several times since I have been at home, but have of late grown very weak and am now unable to walk the room without a staff I have a general weakness through my whole body and am affected with rheumatism and cholic pains so as not to be able to rest in bed but very little. I think I have no reason to expect to ever get so well as to visit my friend again in this world I desire to be resined and to acquiese

in the will of God. I want you and your wife to come and see us this fall if you would ever see me again. Please to give my love to your family all my Dear friends in Topsfield particularly to Ephraim tell him that he must come and see me very soon if he would ever see me any more. I found my friends in Ohio enjoying a measure of health but not as healthy as our friends are in these eastern states. My family and our friends are generally well. I had ought to have written to you some time agoe but my poor health and other things have hindered. I do not think I have seen a day this week that I could have written before today my pains have mostly left me, I have but just strength enough to set and write I must draw to a close and subscribe my self your sincere friend

[To] Jacob Towne

Jacob Perkins

ABNER FOSTER TO JACOB TOWNE.

Rindge December the 14— 1832

Dear Sir i have scent a few lines to you to inform you that i want you to Git me a Depersion for the year 1775 in December Mr Pike told me that my Sister Hoobs would Be a Good witnefs for me i want you to Go to there Hous and See hir and see if fhee Doant Rember that i went to Boston under Lt Rufus wheler was from Byfield and my Brother Burbank went with me At the Same time and thomas Teney was in the fame Company Now you will Due well to see what fister Hoobs and Brother Hoobs if thay or fhee Nowes Any thing About it Pleas to git all thay Now About it Mr Nelson told me that Bill Leatherbee was out at the fame time and he Now Livs in ipswich if you Doant Git No Proff from Sister Hoobs Pleas to see if you Can find him if he Dont Live two far of if there is Nothing to Be Got there then i would have you Call on W^m Leatherbee and Git one from him or see if he Noes of Anyone Sir i have scent you one Doller and wish you to scend them in a Leater to me and scend what the Caust is and i will scend you the Money Pleas to Direct it to Rindge Post office if you

can obtain Sister Hoobs Proof I would Not Look Any further Dere Sir Pleas to fend me as soon as Posile Sir Doont forgit the year December 1775

Abner Foster

JOHN TOWNE TO JACOB TOWNE.

Dear Sir after my respects to you I take this opportunity to write a few lines to you to let you know that through the Divine goodness of God I am well and in usual health and I hope that these may find you and your family injoying the same blessing. Sir Nathaniel Johnson Esq^r informed me that you wished to know the names of the family of towns which moved from the town of Topsfield to the town of Greenwich and the time they moved and the time of their birth if known. Sir I can give you their names but the exact time when they moved from Topsfield to Greenwich or the exact time of their birth is unknown to me. Sir my Grandfathers name was John Towne I think I have heard him say that he was born in the town of Topsfield about the year A. D. 1686 as near as I can recolect and that he was married about the year A. D. 1714 to a widow Abigail Towne of Topsfield aforesaid by whom he had five Children viz. Samuel who was born about the year A. D. 1715 the month and the day of this birth is not known to me Jonathan was born about the year A. D. 1718 the month and the day of this birth also is not known to me Abigail was born about the year A. D. 1721 the month and Day of her birth also is unknown to me. Catherine was born in November about the year A. D. 1726 the day of the month unknown to me. John was born November 15th about the year A. D. 1780. my Aunt Abigail Towne died in Topsfield the time unknown to me my Grandmother Abigail Towne also died in Topsfield the time of her Death unknown to me. the Survivors of the family all moved from Topsfield to Greenwich in April about the year A. D. 1749 according to the best of my information. Sir I have had no records to refer to my father once informed me that my said Grandfathers family were recorded in the record of births in the town of Topsfield it would be a great sat-

isfaction to me if you would examine your records of births & Deaths to see if you can find upon your towns records the family I have described and if you do you will give me great pleasure if you would write to me and give me the time of their births and Deaths as they stand upon your towns records. perhaps I have not named them in succession which you will correct. Sir I am yours with Due respect.

Dana, January 2nd A. D. 1836
To Jacob Towne Esq^r Topsfield

John Towne

SUBSCRIPTION TO PURCHASE A CHURCH ORGAN.

The unders^d having learned that the Lad^s of the Cong^l Chh & Soc. in T^d have resolved to raise *one thousand Dollars*, or more, to be approp^d to the purchase of a Chh. Organ, & being desirous to aid in the making of s^d purchase, Hereby severally sub. the sums of money set opposite their respective names, & hereby severally agree to pay s^d sums to the Treas. of the "Ladies Soc." connected with s^d Chh & Soc., whenever & so soon as the amts subscribed hereto, or otherwise raised for the object & purpose aforesaid shall amt. to the sum of *one thousand Dollars*.

Topsf^d October 17th 1856.

Names.		Names.	
John Cleaveland	\$50	Joseph Towne Jr.	5
John Wright	25	Solomon Wildes	25
R. A. Merriam	10	M. B. Wiides	25
Henry West	10	Asahel Huntington	25
E. T. Gould	25	J. M. Bubier	20
J. R. Peabody	10	"A Friend to Topsfield"	50
J. P. Towne	10	T. W. Peirce	25
N. Cleaveland & Daugh- ter	25	W. N. Cleaveland	15
J. Warren Healy (on con- dition)	25	Henry Perkins	3
Dr. David Choate Jr.	10	A Friend	5
Mrs. H. H. Cleaveland	15	Ansel Gould	5
Mrs. Mary Taylor	10	Augustus Smith	3
W ^m H. Foster	20	W ^m Black	5
		David Casey	5
		A Friend	1

Chas Herrick	25	Sarah Sanderson	1
Moses Wildes	25	John G. Hood	5
William Bradstreet	5	Willard Dwinell	3
James Waters	5	J. A. Gould	20
Mrs. Willard Smith	5	T. P. Munday	10
Caleb Perkins	5	J. P. Gould	11
John Dwinell	3	T. F. Leach	4
Elijah Bradstreet	3	Nath. Averill	3
Neh ^m Perkins	2	F. Stiles	1
Edward Ferguson	1	Silas Cochran	1
Elisha A. Hood	5	Esq. Poole	25

C. J. P. FLOYD TO JACOB P. TOWNE.

Newbern N. C. Oct 4th 1862

Friend Towne.

I have long desired to write you a few lines, thinking that perhaps you would like to hear from the Topsfield men in the 23rd Regt, but could not get the time to write when I felt able, and as I have a few leisure moments at this time I thought to intrude myself upon your time for a friendly *chat*, and I hope to interest you by telling you where we are, what we are doing, how we got here, and generally what we see and have seen in this *miserable* portion of our Country.

And first you will see by the dating of this that we are in New Bern (or in modern phraseology Newbern).

Of the City and its inhabitation I shall speak at some future time.

We in the 23rd are at present and have been since the 7th of May doing Provost duty in the City; the duty is not so laborious as some others, but is very tiresome and wears upon the men very much, so that there are many at all times that are under the Dr^s care.

The duty is as follows, rise at 5 Oclk A. M., Breakfast at 6. Guard mounting at 8, this takes usually one hour.

The old (guard of the previous 24 hours) guard is then marched to their quarters and dismissed after posting the new guard, which is divided into four districts and each district into four reliefs.

The first relief goes on at 9 Oclk. and is relieved by

the second at 1 ocl^k, which is relieved by the third at 5, which is relieved by the first at 9 P. M. each standing four hours and being off eight.

The two reliefs that are not on guard being obliged to stop at their guard houses the whole eight hours excepting what time is given them to go to their quarters for their meals.

While the men are on guard they are not allowed to sit down, and must carry their musket either at Shoulder or Support, and in stormy weather at secure Arms.

This you will readily perceive is verry tiresome and there is no wonder that so few can stand to the duty long when we consider that it takes nearly half the Regt to stand each day and hence the men must go on every other day.

After the old guard are dismissed and have taken their breakfast, they must then clean their muskets and equipments, which takes the best part of the forenoon.

Dinner at 12 M. over they get untill 3 P. M. to themselves, which time is usually spent either in reading writing or sleeping.

At 3 Ocl^k there is a drill of 1½ hours, and at 5 dress parade, 1 hour, supper at 6, tattoo (roll call) at 7½, and taps (put out the lights) at 9 Ocl^k when we must all retire for the night and quiet must reign supreme in all Co quarters. The evenings are spent in singing, talking, reading, writing, and in some places in card, checkquer, and chefs playing, the men trying to realize the truth of the old saying that "The Soldiers life is always gay."

Thus far I have spoken of the duty of others, I will now speak but a few words for myself. I am one of the Co cooks of which the Co has two, and I find quite enough to do to keep me buisey the most of the time, and perhaps I had better pafs over the part which I have to play, by refering you to your Good Wife, if you would know what a cooks work is.

But I feel that there is much truth in the old saying that a mans work is from Sun to Sun, but a womans (cooks of course) work is never done.

There has been but one death in the Reg^t during the last month which is considered remarkable, but the most

of the Topsfield men have been sick, and out of the 13 who enlisted at Lynnfield but 5 remain and three of those are on the sick list and are about to be discharged, they are John Smith, Wm Janes, & E. Cummings, the last named was at the time of enlistment living with A. S. Peabody Esq. so that myself and John Dudley are all that will remain and both of us have been in the Hospital, and I am not well yet, nor do I expect to be so long as I have to stay here, but Dudley is very hearty and looks well.

We left Lynnfield (as you know). on the 11th of Nov. last and nothing of note happened to us untill we arrived at Annapolis, Md. if I except that we were well used in Boston, but badly used in N. Y. at which place we stoped 24 hours, and then after marching us all over the City the Authorities allowed us to go away tired and hungry, but the good people of Jersey City on being made acquainted with the state of affairs, on our arrival at that place provided us with a bountiful coalation and we left that place in much better humor and spirits than when we arrived.

On our arrival at Philadelphia we found that there was a nice hot breakfast in waiting for us (it being about 3 Oclk. A. M.) with butiful Lady waters ready to serve us with everything that a hungry man could wish, nice cold meats different kinds, hot coffee & tea and nice warm buis- ket with good sweet butter & cheese, and then the Dutch- mans desert, Sour Krout, sat in dishes every few feet the whole length of those extensive tables.

I was told that we were the 112th Regt who had eaten at this establishment since the war broke out, and not one of them had ever had to wait one moment and none had gone hungry away, and it is still kept open to feed the poor Soldier as he goes to the seat of war at the call of his Country and will continue open as long as the war lasts or there is a hungry Union Soldier, wholly by Vol- unteer contributions of her loyal Citizens. Long may they live to enjoy that Peace for which we are now bat- tling the foe to our common Country.

We left P. at 6 Oclk. A. M. and in leaving bad adue to friends & kindness for we have seen none since

We arrived at Perryville about 11 Oclk where we found the Government depot for forage & teams here was a

sight, enough to surprise anyone, 15,000 mules, & about 10,000 horses with wagons, hay & grain, enough to keep them for years.

There we met with the first Soldiers that we had seen, actually in Service, the 11th Mafs. Reg^t, doing guard & picket duty.

We left P. at 2 Oclk P. M. and arrived at the wharf of the Naval Academy, Annapolis, at 10 Oclk. We were quartered in the Academy buildings about 15 hours, when we were removed to the College buildings where we stopped 24 hours and then took up the line of march for our camping ground, about three miles from the City. There we pitched our tents and remained 7 weeks & 2 days, when we ordered on board the Transports.

The 23rd we were ordered to go on board the Str Hussar & Sch Hilander, the right wing (4 Cos) on board the latter, to be towed by the former which had the Band & 5 left wing Cos. We went on board on the 6th of Jan. and at daylight on the 9th we steamed off down the river into the Bay towards Ft Monroe. The sail was delightful, and about sunset on the 10th we dropped anchor in Hampton roads.

After about 24 hours delay, we left Fts M. and still towed by the Hussar, steamed away south towards Hatteras.

But a storm that had been for a number of days brewing, broke upon us on the eveng of the 12th and at daylight the next morning it was deemed prudent to cut the cable by which we were being towed and it was accordingly done and the Steamer left us to the Mercy of the Storm.

After being driven about by the wind and waves untill we were all tired of a seafaring life we at last came to an anchor just outside of Hatteras Inlet, and at the verry spot where, a few months before, Gen^l Butler had landed his force. We anchored at 2 Oclk P. M. on the 14th and on the 16th were towed into the inlet and there came to anchor.

In passing into the inlet we were fortunate enough to be just in season to save the lives of the Officers of the 9th N. J. Regt. by taking them out of the water into which

they had been precipitated by the upsetting of the boat in which they were about to cross the bar to go to their Ship, having left the Ship in the morning to report their safe arrival to Gen^l Burnside, but sad to tell the Surgeon and Col were both dead before we could get them on board the Hilander.

After laying at Hatteras about 3 weeks and suffering for want of food & drink, and cold and storm, we left on 5th of Feb for Roanoke, where we arrived on the Eveng of the 6th, and about 9 Oclk A. M. on the 7th the Gunboats commenced the Bombardment which lasted (as I suppose you have read and know) untill dark.

One little incident at the bombardment pleased us all, which I will here mention.

The largest gun in the fleet, 112 pds, was carried amidships of a small Sloop and was in a swivel, and as the wind was off land she had a fair wind and done fearful execution, for she would sail down by the Fort and when just opposite would let fly one of those 112 lb shot or shell and keep right on her way untill she was out of danger, and then tack about and sail up by and give them another, and so she worked and not one shot hit her for the whole day.

The 23rd were all landed about 10 Oclk P. M. and after wallowing through marsh mud knee deep about 1½ miles we came to an open field where the Division Bivoked for the night, and it rained the most of the night so that we were wet to our skins.

The next morning we took up the line of march in the following order. Mafs 25th, 23rd, 29th, 21st, 10th Conn and 51st N. Y. (Hawkins Zouaves), one Co from each Regt being left on board the Transports. After marching 2 miles (the road having a semicircular direction), the 25th came upon the rebel pickets and drove them in when the firing became general.

The 25th engaged them in their cover and the 23th were ordered to file through the swamp and flank them on their left, and to do this we must pass in front of their battery of 4 guns and all of their musketry, and it was while doing this that J. B. Lake was wounded, and we met with all our loss, for no sooner did they find that

we were through the swamp (which they had pronounced impassable) than they began to retreat, and when the Zouaves made that Gallant (?) Charge, that the papers had so much to say about, there was not a whole Rebel in the Fort or behind the breast works.

The 24 Mafs Reg^t then came up with the 8th Conn and gave chase and baggd the game (3862) and we who had done the fighting rested about an hour and then started off for the Barracks which we found at the end of an 8 mile march. The Barracks consisted of about 100 log houses some 60 feet long by 15 wide, with smaller ones for Officers, &c. they were situated in the woods and were in two distinct camps, but were the most filthy habitations that I had ever sat my eyes upon, being almost alive with vermin.

Besides the Barracks there we have about 200 tents of different kinds & sizes, so that we had a decent kind of shelter.

On looking around the next day we found that besides the Prisoners & property above mentioned that had fallen into our hands, we had taken 34 cannon, 4500 stand of small armes, 3 forts, 4 batteries, and a vast amount of other property, all of which you probably informed yourself at the time.

The Island contains about 600 inhabitants of the most wretched looking people that I had ever seen, and they soon came flocking into camp with potato pies &c which our men were glad to get at any price.

The Inhabittance seemed to be a simple clever set of beings and they all claimed to be Unionists.

The Island itself is low, damp, & swampey, just the place to kill human beings, and there is no wonder that the first settlers should all have died, as you know it is a matter of history that Roanoke is the place where Raleigh attempted the first settlement in this Country.

After stopping on the Island 4 weeks (much longer than any of us wanted to stay) we again embarked on board the transports and in a few days found ourselves at anchor in the Neuse River, 15 miles below Newbern.

Early the next morning the gunboats began to shell the woods, and at 9 Oclk the troops began to land, this was the 13th of March.

The 28rd all got landed about 3 Oclk P. M. and then took up the line of march our rout lay through sand, mud swamps woods and water and on we trudged for 10 miles, every moment expecting to hear that those of our advance had engaged the enemy, but in this we were disappointed and began to think that they had escaped, for about 5 miles from where we landed we came to a deserted breastwork of about one mile in length.

Soon after we landed it commenced to rain, and the whole of that march was made through rain as well as mud, so that by the time we halted for the night we were wet through to our skins and covered with clay mud to our waists.

We came to a halt at 10 Oclk P. M. and having built fires and posted a guard we laid down around the fires and tried to sleep, but it rained so hard that sleep was out of the question, and we pased the night as best we could.

Early in the morning we were ordered into line and again started on the march, and in a short time we were filed into the woods to the left.

We had not gone far when I saw Lieut Col Merrit changing his coat (this was the last time I ever saw him) and he gave the Order "by the right fall into line." This brought the right of the 23rd to rest on the left of the 27th, and when we were filing into line we could see (through the wood) the Enemies breastworks with their heads just above the top.

The sight was but for a moment, for the big gun from the Hilander had got into position and let fly a 12^b shell which opened the ball, when a volly of Cannister, Shrapnel, Grape, Bomshells & Musketry burst upon us and the smoke and a thick fog which set in intirely hid them from our view, but although their pieces were aimed much too high to do us much damage, still at that discharge maney a poor fellow lost his life and many others were wounded, for it was at that discharge that Lieut Col Merrit was killed and Capt Sawyer lost his leg.

Col Kurtz was verely self Posessed and cool and for three hours all that he would say was "Boys, load quick & aim low," and "*lay flat down when you load, Boys.*"

After expending all of our ammunition we were ordered

back about 45 paces and told to lay flat down and fix bayonets and wait for the order to Charge.

After laying a short time the musketry behind the breastwork in front and at our right intirely ceaced and it soon became evident from the repeated cheers on our left which we knew came from Gen^l Reno^s Brigade that we had gained the day, and on being ordered up we discovered that the enemy had wholly abandoned their works and were in full retreat towards Newbern.

We were then marched into the battery, and such a sight as there met our eyes I pray God it may never be my lot to witnefs again. the dead & wounded of both man & beast lay in heaps or were scattered all over the field; it was a sickening sight and we were not sorry that our Brigade (the 1st) were not ordered to stop on the field but on the contrary were ordered to march on Newbern, where it was supposed the Reb^{ls} would again make a stand, so off we started, and a march of two hours brought us in sight of the City, which we found to be on fire, for the rebels had tried to make a stand but the presence of our gunboats had so frightened them that they tried to burn the City by setting fire to it in a Number of places and then run away; but in this they were foiled, for the crews from the gunboats went on shore, and, aided by the Negroes, succeeded in extinguishing the flames.

We crofsted the Trent river in boats (the rebels having burnt the bridge) and marched through the City to that old encampment on the State Fair ground just above the City on the bank of the Neuse, which we found in much the same state and condition as those at Roanoke, save that here they had no Barracks but were all tents, and a more hungry and tired set of poor fellows I guefs you never saw.

But one nights sound sleep had a good effect upon us and we arose the next morning much refreshed.

After laying in camp a few days we were sent out about 8 miles on picket and there we spent the Spring untill the 8th day of May when we were so much reduced by exposure & sickness that we were ordered into the City to do Police duty and here we are.

The climate of N. C. is some warmer than Mafs. but not so much so as one would think

The soil is rich sandy loam and I should judge if properly worked would yield abundantly

Fruit is very plenty but appears to be a natural growth and I am told that there are but few grafted trees of any kinds and there is no one who understands grafting.

Vegetables of which they raise all the kinds that are raised North, and some others such as Sweet Potatoes, Peanuts, &c. are very poor but very readily bring high prices

Farming tools & stock, if I except the horses there is nothing else that a Northern Farmer would have on his farm. Why! such cows, not much larger than a yearling with us, and as poor as "Jobs Turkey," and here the shiftless fools think that 3 qts to a milking a "good mess," and if they have a cow that gives 4 or 5 qts they think she cant be beaten. Sheep can hardly stand alone, hogs, do, and they think a 200 lb Hog a wonder, and if an old Hog attains to the enormous size of 350 or 400 lbs he is a Miracle

To speak of the manners of the people here would be to talk of something that does not belong to the people of the South, for they have none, for if you ask how far it is to any place, they will answer, "Reckon it is eight Smart ways." And if you ask how many of anything anyone has got, they will tell you, "Reckon he's got Heaps."

Now such answers to those who are acquainted and understand it is all very well, but to us Yankees it is all Heathen Greek.

The Customs of the people show that they are far behind us in everything. In the Kitchen the old fashioned Dutch oven and baker supply the place of our beautiful cook stoves, and in their living & sitting rooms you will find the old open fireplace, and everything else in perfect keeping with the times when such things were used among our Grandparents.

The common donkey or tipcart is used for everything. I have seen it used for a hearse and for carriages for mourners to ride in at funerals, and a few days ago there was a happy couple come into Town to get married and they rode in a tipcart. I have also seen men taking their families to ride and all in the same stiled vehicle, the tipcart.

But the worst Custom or practice, and that which seems to prevale to a great extent among the females, is, Snuff dipping. I do not believe there is a white woman in Newbern that is not addicted to this vile & dirty habit

The way it is performed is this, they take a small tough stick and after chewing it or rather one end of it to a broom they will dip it into the snuff-box and then rub it on their gums and then dip again and put it into their mouth and chew it untill the snuff is all gone and then dip and chew again, and so continue from morning to eveng, and one can hardly pafs a house where white people live without seeing that everlasting stick protruding from the mouth of some of the fair (?) daughters of the South.

But I find that I must close. Will you please excuse all mistakes, for I am obliged to write amid noise and confusion and no doubt have made maney mistakes which I have not time to rectify.

Pleas remember me to all my acquaintances and answer and oblige

Yours Truly

Chas. J. P. Floyd.

N. B. direct to me, Co. F, 23rd Mafs Vol. Newbern, N. C.

If it is not to much to ask I would thank you to call on Mrs. Floyd and say that you have received this and look at my trophies.

C. J. P. F.

Topsfield, &c.

To Doct. Thomas Manning, Surgeon of Col. Wades' Regiment of Militia.

The bearer, Solomon Averell, enrolled as a soldier in my company, having lost the use of the fore finger of his left hand, is in my opinion unfit to perform military duty, and I, therefore, shall make no objection to his being discharged.

I am, with respect yours &c

J. B. Capt. of the
company in Topsfield.

This may Certify whome It may Concearn y^t John pirkins a Soldier under y^e Comand of Liuettt Brackett was releaft out of his Majesties Servis y^e 13 day of November and hath his Liberty to go home to Toppsfield as Atest pr mee Thomas Butler Clerk of s^d Company.

SPECIFICATIONS OF A HOUSE FOR NABBY PERKINS.

This is a plan of the floor of a house 40 feet by 30 and the following is a statement how it is to be executed. First the timber is to be hewed well and then framed well. Boarding the roof, boards jointed, the sides and ends featheredge and put on well. A cornice and bed mould for the covings and weather boards with a cornice, And then shingled and a scuttle on the roof; also corner boards and warter tables and window frames for 24 squares and 20 for the chamber said frames are to be made in the fashion called sunk frames with a full architrave also doors the front door in the dorick order the end one in the tuscan order and the whole to be clapboarded all to be done in a workman like manner. The inside first an under floor over the whole laid well also a garret floor jointed and harved and laid well also back stairs from the bottom of the suller up to the scuttle also the front entry is to be finished with one run of stairs with a twist and ramped rail and square banesters said entry is to be dadod with base and capping also cornice and wide fasha, with flutes and spaces with full architrave round doors and windows also upper floors plained and laid well the front room is to be finished with dadod base and capping and plain cornice fasha with full architrave round all the doors and windows also a chimney piece with plain mouldings also sliding shutters to all the windows also a plained floor all to be done in a workman like manner. The chamber over said room is to be finished the same as the room excepting window shutters. The kitchen is to be finished in a plain and workman like manner with ceiling with plain boards up to the windows or higher if necessary also sliding shutters and all the closets in the rooms and chambers also one small room to be finished in a plain manner with a chimney piece and dado base and coping

with plain cornice and shutters to the windows. The chambers over s^d rooms to be finished with a fasha and mop boards and plained floors over the whole. The doors for the lower part to be 6 pannels and 6 feet 6 inches high and 2 feet 8 inches wide, the chamber to be 4 pannels. The out side doors are 7 feet high 3 feet 4 inches wide. Please to excuse my negligence and bad writing.

Nabby Perkins

To Jacob Towne 3rd

THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN LIEUT BENJAMIN TOWNE
AND REV. JOHN EMERSON.

For Lieut Benj^m Town
In Topsfield

Sir, this comes to let you know that I am ready at any Time to meet you at Capt. Goulds and There discourse with you in a friendly and Christian manner, provided you desire it & give me timely notice when you would meet, also what you would discourse upon & whom you design to bring wth you if you were offended at any Thing, why did you not observe y^e Rule in *Matthew* 18, 15, 16, & come when in y^e Spirit of Love & meekness, which I Should have took well at your hands, and endeavor to have removed y^e grounds of your uneasiness. But ob^s what unkind Treatment have I had—shou^d I deal with you as you have done by me, how hard, hard, hard, would you think it to be?

But I pray God to forgive you and give you Repentance for all your sins in Heart and Life, for now as well as later. O Think on your ways, and Turn unto y^e Lord. Beware of y^e snares which y^e adversary is laying for your precious Soul, and dont let y^e present Blessed leason of grace slip away. Time is oh, how exceeding precious, improve it, I Entreat you, in preparing for a Blessed Eternity you are grown something in years, surely tis Time to see to it that your peace is made with God, and as an Evidence of it that you have Chrif found and living in you.

Mr Town, I Cou^d speak of Things which would not be very pleasing to you to hear of: but far be it from a minister of Chrif to return evill for evill—no, I have not so learned Chrif. But from his word I learn in *Corinth.* 4, 12, 13, being reviled to Blefs, being persecuted to suffer it, being defamed to Entreat. oh! I hope I shall be Enabled to pray heartily for you, and seek and study your Best good, notwithstanding y^e very hard and grievous Treatment I have met with: if I may believe what I hear.

May God Bless you and your family, and may I see you become a new man even a new, created in Chrif Jesus, my heart would rejoice, even mine.

Mr Town, Tho I have suffered so much yet I wish you Pardon, Peace grace & glory through Christ, as I do for my own soul, and so I subscribe myself, your injured and aggrieved

Pastor John Emerfon

Topsfield, February 17, 1745-6

Rev. Sir,

I have received your Letter of the : 17d Instant 1745 and observe in it that you subscribe your selfe your injured and aggrieved pastor and in the same paper you ask me why I did not take the Rule in Matthew 18 : 15, 16, and Come to you alone in y^e spirit of Love and meekness, which you say you should have taken well at my hands. Rev. fir is not Matthew 18, 15, 16 as binding upon you as on me and if it is then why have you not attended your Duty and Come to me in Like manner: and then Rev. fir, you go on to tell of Unkind treatment & Rev. fir have I not been to you alone pray do Confider and see if you Cannot Remember it. furly I have and have also been with Company and have tould you the matter or things that I was uneasy about. did you Labour to Remove aney thing the first time; only as you brought you Negro man for a full proof of what you said and you your self said you was but a fool to him in prayer which gave me more uneasiness for I did not believe that you

did Justis to your selfe and I still believe it was not true (for your negro soon after began to Exort me and tould me that he had been to heaven and hell and he was asked how he Came to know sech things and he said m^r John Baker tould him, and knowing that you ware m^r Bakers teacher I could not believe what you said about your Neagro to be true) so that if your Neagro was a full proof it was no proof to me for I think he Believed the Bibble to be the only Rule to try such things as we ware discosing about by and afterward I Came to you again with two men to Discose you and after sum Discose about former things you said what have you against me Latly and I tould you that for your saying y^t all persons ware born divels which sentane you justified your selfe for saying as fare as your argument would take place: yet I did not believe that you or your childs ware born divels, for if you ware you still are

And then Rev fir about five or six months afterwards you did discose with me alone which discose I shall Refare to your Confence and not Rewrit here only say that I did not Intend that even you should have heard a word from me again of such things: but I might Justly Cry oh oh oh of Rong for it was not above five or six Days afterwards before you Could Charge it on my selfe and others that we had not a spark of grace or the souls of men in us if we did not Voat for you to have such a certain sum of money which you named Rev. fir, pray Confidder if giving money to a Clergyman will give men grace or souls or then the Church of Room is Right for there for money men may have pardon for sin too. Rev. fir pray Consider a litel further and see if you cannot Remember that at the House of M^r Nathaniel Porters you Did Refuse discose with sum of us except you had sum of your party there. And Last March at your House or betwen your House and barn you took me by the hand and said you would have or see if you Could make these things easay—that is such things as I Laid to your Charge. Rev: fir, here I shall appeal to your Consence. since which time I have held you guilty of Breaking your word and you cannot but know that y^e Last Town meeting that I tould you to the same purpofe: Thus Rev. fir I have

Endeavored to Clear my selfe from the Violation of Matthew 18, 15, 16, and was it not that you are my pastor Justly Remind you of Matthew 18, 17 and 19. Then Rev. fir, you tell me that you pray god for to forgive me I would add to say and say God be mericafule to me a finner and not do as the farriase did, and as to your penetrating in to my hart I think you have no bifsness there Except you acknowled your selfe in Eliance to the Church of Room, and I add if you should pray for me I desiar you would not do it as you did for John Dwinel Joseph How and Joseph Herrick and then you tell me that you desir that god would Blefs me and my famally : and I pray God if it may be for his Glory to blefs you and your famally and give you a found mind and a Right understanding in his word that if you are Continued amongst us you may Com to us in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of peace in Christ Jesus. Thus Rev. fir, I have Endeavourd to fhow you the unreasonableness of your Letter and fhall Venture to fubscribe my selfe your most dutifull and faithfull parrikanor

Benja^a Towne

Topsfield february the 24 AD 1745/6

For Lieut Benjamin Town

In Topsfield

M^r Town.

Sir I lately sent you a Letter concerning our meeting and discourfing together at Capt Goulds, wherein I gave you y^e Liberty of appointing y^e Time.

Now this comes to let you know that I will appoint y^e Time of y^e meeting provided you will but say that you desire a meeting at said Cap^t Goulds, in order for a friendly Christian Discourse there also let me know what you would Discourse upon, and whom you design to bring with you. no more at present but heartily wishing you and all yours y^e special saving grace of God in Christ Jesus, I subscribe still your aggrieved minister,

John Emerfon.

Topsfield February 25, 1745, 6.

Rev. fir

I Received your Letter of the 25 of February A D 1745/6 where in you say now this Comes to let you know that I will appoint the Time of the meeting provided you will but Say that you Desire it at Captn Gould in order for a Christian friendly discose there. Rev fir you have known that I did Desire to have had a frindly Discose with you and if I was wrong in my Judgment I have told you that I Should be glad to be fett rite and I have waited on you now for two years

Neither did I Ever intend to Limit you to a place only to know whether you would discose publickly or privatly and to have notice of it time enough to prepare to meet you. and as for the things I would discose of I have told you all Redy the princaple things, and I think that for you to say nothing to me for near a year after you said you would make these things easey, and then write to me that you are Ingred and aggrevd in your former Letter and this also and never attend the Rule which you have Informed me of it Looks to me Like that other passage in Matthew which sayeth to me do as they say but not as they do. I Remain

Benj^a Towne

Topsfield february the 28, 1745-6.

Rev fir I have Received yours of the 28 of February AD 1745/6 and hope when I can find out what is in it I f hall fend you an answer to it which I hope will be in a few Days now I am able to Ride about again

Benj^a Towne

M^r Town

Sir. I received your Letter but in it no answer to what I wrote you, as I think. upon Reading your Letter presently that place in Job 6, 25, came to my mind, how forcible are right words, but what doth your arguing prove! how strangly do you wander from y^e Point in hand? Yea, you dont so much as mention y^e main thing

I wrote to you about in my letter concerning our meeting at Cap^t Goulds &c. was not that y^e main thing, and was not that proposed or supposed to be y^e means of making things easy? Strange then y^t you should not say one word in all your Long Letter about it. I leave it now to your own Conscience to tell you who neglects y^e means of Peace: Surely if you had desired an accommodation you would have took me up at y^e first offer made you in my first Letter or in y^e next & then by this Time we might have had a free & friendly Discourse. you Endeavour to Clear your self from y^e violation of y^t Rule in Matthew 18, 15. But you dont do it; m^r Town, Did you ever come to me alone, in a Christian manner, & take me alone & tell me y^e grounds of your uneasiness, or did you Ever take one or two of y^e Brethren of y^e Church & so Come and take y^e Second Step and tell me you were come to deal with me, according to our Saviours Rule? Surely you cant say with any Justice y^t Comeing with one or two persons y^t were offended as well as you, that this was observing y^t Excellent Rule of Chrif in Matthew do you think when y^e Rule says take one or two more y^t this can possibly intend or mean y^t this one or two should also be persons that are alike offended or aggrieved: tis Contrary to Reason to think So & I verily believe there is not one Divine in y^e world but what would Think it a perverting y^e Rule to do Thus? So y^t m^r Town, I believe it will be best for you no longer to insist upon This, for I believe y^t no unprejudiced Person in y^e world of a sound understanding will think y^t you have duly attended y^t Rule in Matthew. And if you thot y^t you had yourself, and had taken y^e first and Second step, why did you not Procead to y^e third, Come and ask Leave, y^t y^e matter might be laid before y^e Church, especially when there was such an opportunity for it: for you were not ignorant I Trust, y^t ye Church met Twice, not long since, but you brot none of your grievances: and Then at y^e Church meeting I pressed it upon Them (if I Render it Right) to have a Council, and mentioned Such men as I supposed would be agreeable to serve as m^r Rogers of Boxford, m^r Clark of y^e village: and put it to vote whether they would have a Council to Consider of

matters in Controversies, and it was declared in y^e Church (if I understood Right) y^t y^r was no Controversies, and there was not a hand up as I coul See for having a Council and now then why is there all this noise, who is y^e man by whom y^e offence cometh & to whom does y^e wo Belong? Your own Conscience, m^r Town, will tell you if you will Suffer it to Speak: to allude to Matt. 18, 17, y^e Place you cited me too in your Letter.

The Church & Town I believe would fain be at peace & quiet, I desire y^t you would not do any Thing to hinder it.

You come in your Letter to cast Some Reflection on me, Respecting y^e Church of Rome, giving money to a Clergyman &c. But how groundless is This, did I ask you or y^e Town to give me money? dont you know y^t I ask it as a Due Debt & insist upon it as an act of pure Justice y^t my Salary be made good to me and how you can Subscribe your self my faithfull Parrishioner (as you do in your Letter) and not Endeavour to do me Justice in y^t matter, is what I cant reconcile with Truth. you mention about penetrating into y^e heart & being in allyance &c M^r Town, I do from y^e very Bottom of my Heart, I hope, abhor all y^e Corruptions of y^t apostolic Church of Rome, and I am offended for such unchristian insinuations for which you have not y^e least Shadow of any Reason as I know of.

And as for penetrating into your Heart &c whoever pretended to This? is not y^e Tree known by y^e fruit? have not wise and good men been much Stumbled at your Conduct? have you not by what has been visible given to persons of a sound mind and a right understanding occasion of offence? I must needs tell you, M^r Town, y^t you are a very unsuitable person to Throw Dirt and cast Reflections and indeed tis Enough to make any one wonder y^t you could find it in your Heart to Send me Such an unchristian Letter, stuffed with so many Reflections, when you know my Letter to you, y^e Language of it & you can Judge no farther, breathed So much Love to you, Love to your soul, to your precious Soul, & courage for you, & for yours also. you have a Hint about my Continuing &c. as to y^e matter. I hope I shall leave it with

God and be willing to be where my Dear Lord & Master Jesus Christ would have me to be and do & suffer what Shall call too : and I hope He will Enable me to make a profitable improvement of y^e Trouble I meet with from you.

Moreover, you say in your Letter, I refused to discourse with some of you &c without some of my Party (as you term it) were there at M^r Porters, &c. and indeed, M^r Town, had I not need, & have I not occasion to be careful whence I have so much Reason to Think y^t either you have not understood me at some time when I have spoke or else have not put y^e fair candid construction upon my words as you ought to have done, but took Them, or Explained them into Such a Sense or meaning and carry Such an idea as never came into my Heart. M^r. Town, whatever I have said to you or before you, I could wish a Thousand wise & good men had been in y^e Hearing of and as for my preaching, glory to free gives alone, y^t I have so much Reason to hope it has been a favour of Life unto Some precious Souls : however you have been at any Time displeased with it.

M^r Town, I hope, if you show to any one a copy of your Letter to me, you will be so Just as to read y^m this answer, and then I think, if you triumph, they will see, at least y^e unprejudiced, y^t you do it before you have got accusatory. I Could Say much more by way of answer, but if we have a friendly Discourse, I may speak by word of mouth.

M^r Town if you Shall See cause to write again as I would have you write seriously, pertinently to y^e Point in hand, and reason Justly, so I desire y^t you would Send me a direct plain answer to this question, whether you desire to meet me at Cap^t Goulds as proposed to you in my former letters. I hope I do, wthout any Hesitation, wish you & your family all y^e Blessings of y^e New Covenant and can assure you y^t I am willing things may be accommodated upon a righteous foundation, and am your agrieved minister at present.

John Emerfon.

Topsfield, Febury 28, 1745-6.

P. S. Mr Town Look upon these few Lines as a Post-script to y^e inclosed Letter.

You ask in your Letter whether if in Matthew &c be not binding on me &c. did I not Come to your House, take you alone & in a friendly manner discourse you a great while? But I would have you know y^t I have great Reason to be aggrieved for your Talk abroad of late & not coming to me according to y^e Rule in Matt: &c & how have you Expoused your self, in Endeaving to reproach your minister? in your Letter you say & say Right y^t y^e Bible is y^e Rule &c why yⁿ dont you observe it? your Bible tells you in 1 Tim. 5, 1, Rebuke not an Elder but Entreat him as a Father.

Now has your Treatment of me & my Character been like y^t of a dutifull Child to his Father? Let Conscience speak. you say y^t I would See if I could make this easy &c. what could you Expect more than I am doing, Seeking after a friendly Discourse wth you &c. before wife & good men; indeed I never Said any Thing to you, as I know of, y^t deserves Such Treatment as I have had: y^e Least Degree of true Charity would Cover a Thousand fold greater offence than ever I gave you: perhaps at y^e most it may be but only Some Defect in y^e memory, or Some word misplaced, or a Slip of y^e Tongue, & it may be not y^t neither, but you misunderstood me, it might be. oh! Mr Town what have you done y^t has provoked God to leave you to fall in to so great a Sin, as y^t of Contending with your minister: I refer to your Conscience: you Shall find me ever ready to accomodate matters, Let me but see a becoming humble Christian Behaviour, &c. I subscribe your aggrieved minister as before.

J : E:

For Lieu^t Benjamin Town
In Topsfield

Rev Sir.

I Recd your letter of y^e 28 of feb^r last wherein you say you Recd. my letter but in it No answer as you think &c and you say I Do not so much as mention y^e main things Rev Sir you ask^d me why I Did Not Take y^e Rule in Mat.

18-15-16 I Did answer you to y^e Point which is a main Point to answer Such Texts of Scripture

you Now ask me weather you Did Not Come to my house, Take me alone &c Rev Sir your Discorse was about my uneasiness only, but you Did not Say anything about any agreviance of yours then Nor at any other Time therefore I think y^e Text of Scripture was a main point to answer. Seeing y^t you Sign^d your letter y^t you was Injured &c for to Show you y^t I tho^t you had violated y^t Scripture ; in Telling me you are Ready for meeting &c and you have Selected to Take y^e Rule in Matt. afores^d: if you had fulfild what you Declard you would when you was at my house: you Never would have heard anything more from me about them things: you ask me whather Ever I came to you alone and you ask Severall questions of y^t Nature &c Rev. Sir I have been with you alone and Told you y^e matters of my uneasiness: and you gave me your word once and again that you would make them things easey: and I have Discorsed with you in Company: you ask me why I Did not Take y^e Third Step: Rev. Sir you Did Say you would make things Easfy: and I waited on you Expecting you would make them Easfy as you said you would: you speak about your prefsing it upon y^e Church for a Council: and say you mentioned Such men as you Supposed would be Exceptable to me: m^r Rogers & m^r Clarke: Rev. Sir if there be Need of a Council they are Exceptable to me: you Say I Come in my letter to Cast Sum Reflections on you: Respecting y^e Church of Rome giveing money to a Clergy man &c Rev Sir I apprehend you have made No answer at all to y^t part of my letter: for in my letter I say you Charg^d it on myself and others y^t we had Not a spark of Grace or y^e Souls of men in us: if we Did not vote for you to have Such a Cartain Sum of money which you Named: and I think my letter is not So much Stufed with Reflections Nor so much Dirt throued as there is in yours: you say is Not the Tree known by the fruit: Rev Sir I think I have seen and heard you Taken Screeming and Crying out for fruit and you said y^t they were brought home to Christ: you ask me weather good men have not been Stumbled at my Conduct &c Rev Sir I

think I might ask you y^e Same question : you say you hope if I fhow to any body a Copy of my letter to you &c Rev fir I think you Cast great Reflections Concerning my Triumping and I think you are a very unfutable to Reflect in such a maner then Rev. Sir you Come to say oh m^r Town what have you Done that has prevoked God to Leave you to fall in to so great a fin &c Rev. Sir if it is a fin I feear it was for Voating for you to be a seetled Minister amongst us and since you have been so great againes by the Consequence you need not so Cry out

Then Rev Sir you Come to tell me that I say in my letter and say Right that the bible is the Rule, and then you say why dont you observe it your bible tells you in 1 Tim. 5, 1, &c. Rev Sir dost you not know that that text is directly Contrary to what you intend or have you been Rapt up in the Contemplation of your Letter and the praise it would bring to you that you have not had time to Look in to your Bible to see it was Paul's Exhertation to Timothy how he should behave him selfe towards all ages. here Really fir you have wanderd from the point (then Rev. Sir you say.) you shall find me very redy to acomidate matters &c Really Sir I have waited years on you with all the becoming mean or temper I Could and you have not done it yet, and by the tenor of your Letter I think you never Intend to do it. then Rev. Sir I have Indeavored to fhow you that I did not wander from the main point and my argumen is good, for in Math. 18, 15, 16 it dont say that I shall take Church member but one or two that is whome I pleas. so that Job 6, 25 may Come in to your mind again when you Read your Letter with those texts of scripture you sent to me you may see that such a minister as you can be mistaken, but I do Earnestly Intreet you to Complioy with your duty and then I hope we shall have a speedy settlement of all the matters of uneasiness I Remain your Reconfiabable Frind & Parichtioner

Benj^a Towne

Topsfield march 28th 1745-6

For Lieu^t Benj^m Town
In Topsfield

Mr Town

Sir. I received your Letter of march 28th and would observe to you that y^e main Thing at Present in Controversie between us by Letters, you still neglect to resolve me in, that is, whether or no, you will meet me at Cap^t Goulds, in order for a friendly Conference There, as proposed to you in my first or Second Letter, which if you will do Then will I Endeavour as God Shall Enable me, I hope, in y^e meekness of wisdom to give you an answer to your Letter by word of mouth But if you decline meeting of me at Cap^t Goulds, Let me know it, and Then by writing in Convenient Time, I will Endeavour to send you a suitable answer to your Letter of march 28th I remain your aggrieved but yet Reconciliable Pastor

John Emerson

Topsfield April 22, 1746

Rev fir

I Received your Letter of April 22, 1746, with these words in it, y^t is and would observe to you that y^e main thing at Present in Controversie between us by Letters you still neglect to resolve me in &c Rev fir i would observe to you that is not true for you did in your Letter of febr^y 17: 1745-6 ask me why I did not take the Rule in Matthew 18. 15. 16. I did write to you that I had in sum measure taken that Rule with you and I still think that I have attended that Rule as far as Is needfull with any honest well meaning man and you still subscribing your Letters aggrieved and tell me you are still for a meeting and you never have attended the Rule in Matthew aforesaid no not so much as to one single word then how Can you be still for a meeting if the bible hath any force on you or you had any Confidence you would be a shamed of such kind of treatment to write time after time of main points—and you Live in the Violation of Math^a aforesaid: Rev fir you know that the main point that I Insisted on at Mr Israel Clarks with you you said your self was Rea-

sonable and Just: and I now tell you that I Cannot believe you are Just or honest to Live in the Neglect of your known duty, for it is said in Matth 5. 23. 24 you should go and be Reconciled &c Except you will allow you selfe to be pointed at in these other Scripturs Viz in Isai. 56- 10-11-12 & Isai. 65. 5. 6, & Jer. 5. 30. 31 & Jer. 23. 1. 2. & Ezek. 34 Chap and Micha. 3. 5. 6 and in your paper of february the 28, 1745-6 you ask me why is there all this noise who is the man &c Rev Sir I tell you y^t you are the man, and that you say in Sd paper—the Church and Town I believe would faine be at peace and quiete &c Rev sir I believe they would be at peace & quiete were it not for you but I cannot Spend time to Remark Long Letters for I am not a fallary man—Neither do I geet my Living by Lying or Cheating—but to Return to your paper of Apriel 22 Rev sir you say which if you will do &c sir I should Reioyce to see a spirit of meekness and true wisdom in you and not so much of the Conterary spirit and then sir you say: But if you Decline meeting me at Cap^{tn} Goulds &c sir had you been a man of an honest mind you would have had a meeting at Cap^{tn} Gould or sum other place Long before now, and had I known you would have had no more Regard to your word you should have had a meeting at sum other place before now, without any of this noise: but to Come to a Close, sir please to take to your selfe Ezek. 8, 14, 15 & Ezek 13, 22, 23. I Still Remain in Topsfield and am

Benj^a Towne.

June the 16, 1746

Rev. sir In your paper of aprill the 22 1746 you tell me of Endeavring to send me a futable answer to my Letter &c. sir I Expected when you had done at Bradford you would be at lasur so that you might find out wat is ment in 1 tim 5. 1. but I think you had rather search after other mens faults then to correct your own, and I beleive it is more pleasing to you to find falt with other men if you have no reason for it then to mend of your own mis-carriages—for what man of an honest mind and believing the bible to be a Rule for him to walk by dare cote Math.

18. 15. 16 for a rule for another man to walk by and at the same time he him selfe is guilty of the Vilation of Math afore said as I think you be Except to be a pharisy which I fear you be for it is said in Math 23. 3 for they say and do not Vers 5 for all their works they do to be seen of men—fir you have signed all your papers Injured, but you never Came to tell me what it was for :—fir in one of your papers you say should I deal with you as you have done by me &c: fir I now tell you that when I did deal with you I did deal honestly and did not Cheat you by Lying. (fir I desire you to Remember what treetment we have had from you, striping open your boosom and threatning to spend your blood &c.) and in one paper you say I could Speak of things which would not be very pleasing to you &c fir that you have done maney a time for I did not believe they ware true; and in the same paper you say no I have not so Learned Christ: fir if you have Learned anything of Christ Lett me see a proof of it by your Complying with his work Especially in Math. 18. 15. 16. fir if you Can sitt still & be Easie to take my money from me and reioyce in it with your party as you termed them when you do me no service, I think you are rightly described in Hosea 4. 9. there Shall be Like people Like priest, and 2 of peter 2. 2. 3 and maney Shall follow their pernices ways—and throug Contiousness shall they with fained words make merchandise of you: but if it be so fir that your party is the biggest boft not thy selfe of to morrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth fir I understand that you find falt that mens Seets are empty: fir I do reely beleive you are the cose of it. Reed 1 of Sam. 2. 17. for men abhorred the offrings of the Lord: fir you know what your Conduct hath been and if it was good why have you dwindled it away: and if bad why dont you make satisfaction and so put an end to all the matters of uneasiness Sir I am directed in Romans 16-17-18 now I beseech you brethren mark them which Cose devisions and offences Contrary to the doctrine which ye have Learned and avoid them, for they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ but their own belly, and by good words and fair speeches Deceive the hart of the simple

fir I think you are the man. fir you tell me in one of your papers of Casting Reflections and puting a rong Constrution on your words fir in both articles I think you are a Wild Gentleman to write as you have done, and I begin to think that you are but a fool to your Negro man as you said was —— or a —— as you Said you was born. fir I have shown your Letters as you Desired I would and I think you have no Concance to delay matters as you have done. fir if you should be plesd to write to me write so that I may Reed it with out so much trouble of transcribing it for I think it penants enough to Reed your works

fir I am not afraid of your great words, and should be glad to have a trial before good men, and not newlits or your party as you termed them. Observe it is you that have signed your selfe Injured, and it is I that desire a fair trial, and it is you that Said you would make things Eassey

I am Benja^a Towne and Live in Topsfield on South side of the River

Topsfield January the 22nd 1746/7

There was in a City a judge which feared not God, neither regarded man. M^r Emerson fir, in your papers you tell me of love to & for me and for my precias soul, and tell me that I am grown sumthing in years—and so you run on as if you had not known that I lived in the woods, and so you might scare me with your nois or deceive me with Judas treatment but being foretould in Mat. 7. 16, do men gather granes of thorns or figs of thifels so I think you have proved your self as a thorn or a thifel to me in Refusing to Complioy with Matt. 18-15-16, for you did tell me that you would make things eassey—that is such things as I Charged you with—and the next news I heard from you, you was Injured & agreved, but you never have been so good as to tell me what it was for but I suppose it was for my telling you the truth or telling the truth about you, and if that be the Case you may Justly say it is a bad report and so set still and geet all the money you Can and Cheet honest men out of their Right, for I think by your silance you Consent to it that the

Bible hath no force on you, and that you have no Conscience as I have hinted to you before—and if so then how do you deliver your soul as in your mighty heat you bragd you would so that I may Justly think you are one of them that was struck by a bad spirit or y^e D—l as I think you said sum ware and if so no wonder that you did think you were but a fool to your Negro man in prayer as you said you was fir in one of your papers you hint as if I made to lite with your Character fir Consider how you have tosed other mens names even when they Came for publick prayers, and remember how you have treeted me. and then take a Review of your own actions with an unpredigesed eye even to Newbery, and see how famous you would be if you was there, and see whether you can now tell who is semingly brought home or new born by aney of these screemings or yellings that you declared to be such a gloris work fir I Realy think that you have been an enthusiasles slanderous and Delusive parson and have been permitted to fall in to repeted deliberate most publick Comprehensive and pernicious Violations of the holy Laws of god for if you had been in your right reason or ware now I think you would make satisfaction for many of your disorderly actions, and I think now you dare not tell how you did produce such Effects upon parsons bodys to make them screem and yell in such a manner and then for you to laugh or smile and declare these parsons ware Savingly brought home to Christ, is what I cannot Reconfile with truth in you. fir you tell me in one of your papers that I am a very Unfutable parson to throw dirt and Cast reflections &c fir I think you are a futable parson to throw dirt and Cast Reflections, since you have been struck or turnd a new Light and I think you take that way to prevoke others to Love and good works—and you term your self a faithfull Minister of Christ, which I Cannot reconfile with truth in you four you Live in the Violation of Math 18. 15. 16 (so that) thou that makest thy boast of the Law throug breaking the Law dihonourest thy God Rom. 2, 1. 2. 3, therefore thou art Incapable O man—for wherein thou Judgest another thou Condemneth thy selfe: fir you may have wickedness enoughe In your hart to say that

you have not Judged but if you should it would be false in you and you have said you Could not be mistaken by no means, so that you are as Enfalable as the Pope.

Topsfield July 31, A. D. 1747

pr me

Benj^a Towne

Sir Observe all the New lits abraid me with my Voating for you to be fetled in topsfield and I believe one half of the people would be glad to have you Removed from the Office we put you in to August the 18 A. D. 1747

I am Benj^a Towne

one of the freeholders in Topsfield

Sir

having heard that you find falt with me that I have not sent you a perticelar answer to your paper of february 25, 1745-6, I do asure you that I did write you an answer to your letter of that date after this manner Rev. fir, in your paper of february 25, 1745-6 you say: now this Comes to let you know that I will appoint the time &c. fir you have asigned your self aggrieved and I think it is your place to appoint the time and if Matth 18. 15. 16 be binding on you, then my house is the place and not Capⁿ Goulds. and you may remember that you did promis me that you would make them things Eassey that I said you was to blame for, and you have neglected that allmost one year Contrary to your word and promise, and I suppose you will neglect the time you spoke of till you think men will be weared out for I Realy believe you dont regard your word any more than the fals prophets of old did who measured them selves by them selves &c and you say also, let me know what you would discose upon and whome you desire to bring with you &c. fir I think for an aggrieved minister to write after that manner to one of his parisinors and never tell him what he is aggrieved for is Contrary to the Rules of the gospel and seemeth Like your selfe, for if you are aggrieved certainly it is your bisness to tell what it is for, for the word faith go and tell him, so that if you have aney Regard to that gospel you pretend to preach you have mistook your self as

much as you did when you said you was but a fool to your Negro man in prayer

Benj^a Towne

Topsfield february the 28, 1745-6

Sir you may by Comparing if you have not Lost the other see this is a Copy of the same Letter Except the three top Lines. Sir I desire you to tell nothing but what is true as I do about you. Topsfield October the 13, 1747

Benj^a Towne

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Convened and mett to gether this second day of November A D 1747 the humble petition of Benjamin Towne of said Topsfield humbly sheweth that he hath not attended the publick worship of God at Topsfield (by Reason of M^r Emersons being fals to his word and promis) for more then one year and half Last past wherefore my desire is that you would abate my Rate to the ministry in Topsfield from that time to this, and in so doing you will oblige yor petitor.

Benj^a Towne

Rev. Sir

Whereas on the 19 Day of november 1747 you Did Desire me to give you in writing the reasons of my uneasiness with you by the second Day of December 1747. Rev. sir in Obedience to your Request, I preceed to say in the first place by your pretending to tell who was gone to hell and who should go to hell in both prayer and sermon

2ly your saying that all them that Did not Come in before that prayer was Done should be Damned, I understood you into the mode of that new work.

3ly your allowing or not forbidding many Inferior or Eilrate parsons to be Exorters in the meeting house

4ly your saying if such persons should hold there tongs the stons would cry out

5ly your saying that there was not a Book nor a Chapter nor a verse in the bible but that treeted on Christ

6ly your pretending to tell when parsons screamed and

made a great nois that they were favingly Brought home to Chrif and your Calling on others to give thanks for them when maney of your parisinors Did not think it was for the glory of God

7ly my Letters that I have sent to you will show you the other Reafons of my uneasiness as plain and as fully as if I should new draueft them

8ly your faying if aney parson ever flept in the meeting house they had not a fpark of grace nor the fear of God before their eyes. Rev. fir thefe with the Reafons given you in my Letters are the main and principle things of my uneafnefs as well as the uneafeneis of a great maney elfe in your parrifh. I fubscribe my felfe your Reconfilable parifinor

Benjamin Towne.

Topsfield December th 2, 1747.

Times of Difcorse

about the Later End of the year: 1742 february first Difcofe with m^r Emerson m^r George Bixby was By

The Next Sabbath m^r Emerfon Declared that Religion Never gained aneything by Disputs but allways Lost So I for bore untill the year 1743

then firstly in a town meeting then I motioned about the flax and hiproct, after that Several times alone—and he chofe Rather to Reflect much

february 1743 With m^r Emerson m^r Jofeph Herrick and m^r Nath^l Porter Jun^r there born Divels

then in September 1744 with m^r Emerson alone in my field

then in a town meeting m^r Emerson faid things and deneoyed it

then at m^r Israel Clarks Thomas baker David Comins Mathew Peabedy are by

then march 1744 Difcofed with m^r Emerson he promised to make matters easy

M^r Roges of Boxford and M^r Clark of the Vilage are named if there shall be Cafe for parsons to Determine David Comings Mathew peabody Israel Clark & Quarter mafter Baker being all with me.

- 1ly for aney minifter to pretend to tell who is gone to hell or who shall go to hell is what no parson can tell and therfor it is fals and ground less: Efpeciall in Congregational Churches although the Church of Room doth pretend to it
- 2ly for aney minister to pretend when he is at prayer that all fuch parsons as doth not Com in before that prayer be Done f hall be Damned, If Limiting God and taking his work out of his hand and erecting a tribunial of their own Contrary to the known Laws of God and must yet in New England be Looked on as fals for we have not fo Learned Christ but from his word we are taught Judg not that ye be not Judged and thus Renders his offerings a Corrupt thing and it may be feared he is a Deceiver and if fo then Cufsed be the decever that hath a mate and offreth to the Lord a Corrupt thing
- 3ly for aney minister to alow of or Incourage Igront or inferior parsons to be Exorters is Contrary to the known Ruls and order of the Laws of god and may be Looked upon as of a daingrous Confequence Reed the account of Uszah and of King Uziah
- 4ly for any minister to pretend that he can tell who is favingly Brought home to Christ by a fuden qualm is a new fanderd Erected for god only knows the hart and althoug we are to hope for the Best yet to declare this or that parson is favingly Brought home to Chrift is what we dont know and fo must be Looked upon as hath fals and groundless Judging
- 5ly for a minister to Discose with one of his parrice in private and pretend to forgit or to denie what he faid may Justly give his parrifioner grounds to abhore him
- 6ly for a minister to promis to mak the agreeviances of any one of his parrish Easey and to delay the matter year after year is nothing fhort of plain Lying
- 7ly for a minister to write a letter or Letters to aney one of his parrish and fubscribe himself Ingred & aggrieved and to ask his parrisiner why he had not taken the Rule in math 18. 15. 16 when fd minister is guilty of the Violation of matth aforessaid is a ftraing Confounding the order of the gospel

- 8ly for a minister when he is in Dispute with aney one of his parrish to Declare that he is but a fool in prayer to a poor Ignorant Negro that Could not Reed nor did not know how maney gods there was must needs be Looked upon not true in it selfe and done to deceive others or to profeed from a distracted brain
- 9ly for a minister to pretend that parsons ware Born Divels or if Children of wrath then Children of the Divel is fals and what Cannot be Reconfiled with truth for if once a Divel they Eternally will Remain so
- 10ly for a minister to Refuse to Discose with severall of his parrish Except he had sum of his party there and So to devid his parishioners into partys is of Daingrous Consequence
- 11ly for a minister to pretend to and tell his parishionars that the Divel had sturred up ould ministers to oppose this Blefsed work hath a tendancy to bring the ministry in to Contempt and is Rash Judging and to say no wors Looketh Like founding their own trumpet as if they ware good ministers when it is to be feared they are gilty of the violation of ye holy Laws of god and he declars that which is not true for he dont know the hart
- 12ly for a minister to strip open his Boosom and threaten to spend his Blood in or for his will Looketh more Like a piret or a Romanlick pretender than a gospel minister in New England

firstly for aney minister to pretend to tell who is gone to hell or who shall go to hell is what no parson can tell and therefore it is fals and groundless for aney to pretend to it, Especcally in Congregational Churches although I confesse the Church of Room doth pretend to it 2ly on the other side 3ly for any minister to declar when he is at prayer that all parsons that did not Come in before this prayer was done would be damned Is Limiting God and taking his work out of his hands and Erecting a tribunal

of their own Contrary to the known Laws of god & must yet in New England I think be esteemed of as fals for him to say so for we have not so Learned Christ but from his word we are taught Judg not that ye be not Judged—and thus I think he Renders his offring a corrupt thing and it may be feared he is a decevir as it is said in Malachi 1-14 but Cursd be the Deceiver . . . which offreth to the Lord a Corrupt thing so I think it may be said of such a minister

2ly for M^r Emerson when prayers are asked for in publick by aney of his parrish by Reason of their being sick to Declar if they die they will all go to hell is Very Discourigin to others to ask prayers in Case of sicknes and he declares that which he knows nothing about for God only knows the hart and God hath said in his word I will be gracious and will shew mercy on whome I will shew mercy and I think god hath not Committed the Judging of and fixing of men's Eternal Estate either in heaven or hell to aney man on earth—and I think it must be esteemed of as Ras h fals and Eronis Judging and is Just matter of offenc : although the Church of Room doth pretend to it

3ly for aney minister to allow of or not forbid but Rather Incourage Ignorant or Inferior parsons to be Ex-orters in a Meeting House is contrary to the known Ruls & order of the Laws of god and may be Looked upon as of a daingerous Consequence; reed the account of Uzzah & of King Uzzih and is I think Just matter of offence

4ly for any Minister to Incourage any to screem and yell and make all maner of disorderly noises—and then for him to say that if these parsons should hold their tongs the stones would Cry out, must I think be accounted fals and done to Diceive others and make them think well of Bad actions

5ly for aney minister to say there was not a book nor a Chapter nor a Verse in the Bible but that treeted on on Christ I think is false for the whole Book of Esther hath nothing in it about God nor Chrif and I think it must be allowed fals Doctrin

6ly for aney minister to declare that parsons are fav-ingly brought home to Christ by a sudding qualm or by

grooning or screeching is a new Doctring for god only knows the hart and allthough we are to hope for the best yet to Declar this or that parson is savyngly brought home to Christ is what he dont know and I think it must be Looked upon as Rash fals and groundles Judging, and then to Call on others to give thanks for them—when I Realy believe the Effects was produced by a bad art for it said that the Jesewits do produce such Effects on their Zelots and our bible tells us that Simon the Soser bewitched the people—and history tells us of the Quakers: and of the pope and of Mehamet all being under such Impulses and all making great pretencies to be spiritual men or holy father Confessers, but Even amongs the popes the want of money is a mortal sin for they it is said cant geet out of purgetory without money; so that I think it is Just matter of offence in Congregationall Churches to produce such effects and declar such things

7ly for a Minister to write a Letter or Letters to aney one of his parish and subscribe him self Ingred and agreed and to ask his parisioner why he had not taken the rule in Mat 18-15-16 when said minister if he be Ingred or agreed must be guilty of the Violation of Matthew aforesaid having never attend the Rule of the gospels is a straing Confounding of the order of the gospel and is Just matter of offence

8ly for a minister when he is in Dispute with aney one of his parisioners to Declar that he is but a fool in prayer to a poor Ignorant Negro that could not Reed nor did not know how many gods there was must I think be accounted not true in him or Else be not fitt for a minister and done to deceive others or Else to profed from a distracted Crafey Brain

8ly for any minister to say that if aney parson Ever flept in the meeting house they had not a spark of grace nor the fear of god before their Eyes, is Rash fals and Eronious Judging Contrary to the Rule Christ hath left in the gospel—in Matth 26-40-41-43—and he Cometh unto his disciples and findeth them asieep and said unto Peter: what Could y^e not watch with me one hour: Watch and pray that ye Enter not into temptation:—the Spirit In deed is willing but the flesh is weak—and

he Came and found them a fleep again : for their Eyes were heavey here Christ doth not Condemn his disciples to be greslefs and feerless but Considers the Infirmities of the human natur and I think allthoug fleeping in a meeting house Cannot be Justified to be good yet there is no minister hath a Right of Judging Parsons gracelefs for boderly Infirmities and it is Just matter of offence fo to Judge Rashly

Articals of Letters

1ly for a minister to write Letters Reflecting is Just matter of offence when he by his own Letters hath proved him self guilty of the Violation of Matth 15-15-16

2ly for Mr Emerson to say he was but a fool to his neegro in prayer, said neegro being a poor Ignorant Cretor that Could not Reed nor did not know how maney gods there was must I think be Counted fals in him or Else be not fit for a minister and done to deceve others or to say no worse to proseed from a Distracted Crasey Brain

3ly for Mr Emerson to teach the people that they are born divels : and then to Justife and say if Children of Rath then Children of the divel, Is fals doctring and what Cannot be Reconsiled with truth for if once a divel they will Eternally Remain so for Christ never died for divels nor Beasts and I think it Just matter of offence

4ly for mr Emerson to Discose with me alone in private and pretend to forgit or denoy what he said, may Justly give me grounds to abhore him and Count him a Covenant Braker

5ly for mr Emerson to charge it on maney of the Town that they had not a spark of grace nor the souls of men in them if they did not Voat for him to have such a sum of money which he named, seemeth as if he would make them believe that grace and souls ware purchased of him by money—and is much Like that of persons giving money to geet out of purgetory—and then when he is Charged with saying such words in a few minits after he said it boldly to denioy it—Is nothing fhort of plain Lying

6ly for Mr Emerson to Refuse to Discose with feveral

of his parrifh Except he had fum of his party there and fo to devide his parisioners in to partys is of daingerous Confequence and hath a tendancy to make one abhore him and Rendreth him not fit for a Minister to one party

7ly for mr Emerson to promis that he would make my agreviancies Easey and to delay the matter year after year I think Looks as if he had no regard to his word or the good of my foul—and yearly to take my money when he doth me no service i think is not Just nor honest nor agreeable to his own advice to fum other people.

8ly when prayers are asked for by aney of Mr Emersons parish for him to declare if they should die they would go to hell is Just matter of offence—and is Contrary to the gospel according to James the 5 Cha 14 & 15 verses Is aney sick among you let him call for the Elders of the Church and Let them pray over him anointing him with oyl in the name of the Lord—15 and the prayers of faith fhall save the fick and the Lord fhall Rais him up : and if he hath Committed fins they fhall be forgiven him here the apostle dont say that the Elders fhall say they are guilty of damnable fins and if they Die they will go to hell neither hath god Committed the Judging of Mens Eternal Estate to aney minister on Earth, althoug there are Corrup fals teachers that doth pretend to it and I think it is a shame to aney in New England to pretend that fuch prayers are agreeable to the word of god, and that they are not offended at it

9ly for m^r Emerson to write as he did in his Letter of Apriel y^e 22. 1746 that is and would observe to you that the main thing at present betwen us by Letters you still neglect to Refolve me in—I think thefe words in Mr Emersons Letter must be fals as I have observed to him in my Letter and Carrey in them the natur of a lie—for in his first and third Letters to me he Spent great part of his time in his writing in Charging me with the Violation of Matth. 18. 15. 16. and in three of my Letters before to him I had Endeavored by Numbrs of Instances to fhow him that I had in fum good measur observed the Rule in Matthew aforesaid with him and Mr Emerson and I never had changed a word together about our meeting at Cap^{tn} Goulds as I know of fo that to meet at Cap^{tn}

Goulds could not be a main thing in our Letters—no nor so much as worthy the name of a thing in Comparison with matthew afore said

Artical 10 your Wishing that there Never was aney more falt nor Rum to Come to the Contry

Answer: her fir as you have Landed your disce against the Salvation of mens souls—for if once a Divel they will Efernially Remain so—and to perswad People to believe you you have tould us that the divel had ftired up old Minifters to oppose the work of god—so in this Artical you Even Level yourself against the good of mankind by distroying the greatest branch of trade in this Contry for if it was not for falt there Could not be aney falt fish trade, nor any meet fitt to eat in the heit of Sumer Except it ware for dogs: and would aney man in his Right Reason wif h so much hurt to his fellow Creaturs as at one blast to destroy both soul and body: for if it ware not for falt we Could not maintain no trad at home or abroad and must fall a sacrifice to our Enemis: if this be Just you may as well wish that ther never might grow aney more Corn becase sum gluttens parsons eat a great quantity of pooden, and fertianly I have seen you to use falt at a table and to drink Rum at a tavern—but to Close all I Cannot think you are fitt for a Minister to wish so much hurt to your fellow Creeturs to deprive them of what god hath made for their Comfort—but to say no worce I Realy believe what Mr Emerson said did procede from a Distracted Crafey brain—for if this was once brought to pafs there Could not be money to pay ministers and if men believed they was then they had as goods hire the Divel as you

the reasons why I think the Revernd M^r John Emerson to have been in an Erroer his Declaring Saul was as Certainly in hell as David in heaven: and Declaring manafsa was Sertnly in or gone to heaven—and maney other things of the Like Natur and at John Dwinels funrel when he had made a great noise and made sum parsons to Run about saying here is hell and there is hell and others Crying out Cursing their prid and hard harts he Set down and smiled or Lafed which was his Comon

practis after wards for fūm time and then on a Sabbath day when there had been screeming belowing and yelling as I thought Like the Resemblence of hell he came in and gave thanks that there was a shaking amongst the dry bones & that the voice of the spouse was heard a far off and at other times he would Lement the with Draw of the Spirit when there was not such Like uproar I heard Mr Emerson say that the Diavel had stired up fūm ministers to appose this good work and he declared that parsons Could not help Crying out then a wooman in Child birth

Mr Emerson Discosed with me in my Brick yard September 1744 and after a long discose about the new work of striking Mr Emerson Said to me he was not the only minifter that had been mistaken about these times and that it had been a time of great delusions and that things had not turned out as he Expected and that he believed there was maney good ministers had been mistaken in these things and he Said I might see he was a Coming off from them by his Sermon he preached the Last Sabbath and I tould him if he was fensable he had been in a Rong way he ought publickly to tell the people of it and he said if he should there was a great many of them that was that way would be worce agains him then I was and he said it would be a difficult thing to be a minister and he said I must forgive him for minifters ware but men and pafs by all offences and I tould him I Could freely Do it if I thought he was fencer in what he said, and he said he was and desired me to give him my hand and i tould him i desired to prove him feven days i ment in publick for which i Coted the Case of miriames being a lepard And for Mr Emerson to Charg it on us that we had not a spark of grace or the souls of men in us if we did not Voat for him to have such a fūm of money which he named, seemeth as if he would make us believe that souls and grace was purchased of the Clargy by money much Like y^t of parsons giving money to geet their Relations out of purgatory and then when he is charged with saying so in a few minits boldly to denioy it and say he never said so is nothing short of plain Lying and

2ly for mr Emerson to write and say as he did in his

Letter of Apriel 22, 1746 viz and would observe to you that the main thing at present in Controvacy betwen us by Letters you still neglect to Refolve me in—these words I think in m^r Emersons Letter must be falce and Carrey in them the Natur of a Ly, for in his first Letter to me with the Violation of matth 18 15-16 and in my three first Letters to him: by a number of Instances I Endevored to fhow him that I had in sum good measure observed the Rule in Matth aforesaid with him and mr Emerson and I never had Changed a word to gether a bout Cap^{tn} Goulds as I Remember so that to meet at Cap^{tn} Goulds Could not be a main thing no nor so much as worthey of the name of a thing in Comparison with Matth afore said

Elisha Towne Testifieth and faith that he heard the Rev m^r Emerson at a Town Meeting say that all you that will not Voat for me to have such a sum of Money (which he Named) had not a spark of grace nor the fouls of men in you
Elisha Towne

Joseph Herrick & David Commings testifieth and faith that on a Town meeting Day in Topsfield they heard the Revernd M^r John Emerson say that they that did not Voat for him to have such a sum of money as he named had not a spark of grace nor the fouls of men in them and we heard Benjamin Towne in discose with Mr Emerson about his saying such words in a few minits after he said it, and m^r Emerson Declared he never said so

Joseph Herrick
David Comings

Nathaniel Porter Jun^r testifieth and faith that being in Company with M^r Emerson and Benj^a Towne, he heard Said Towne Charge mr Emerson with saying that all parsons were Born Divels, and mr Emerson made answer if Children of Rath then Children of the Divel.

Nath^l Porter Jun^r

Joseph Herrick being in Company with M^r Emerson & Nath^l Porter Ju^r & Benj^a Towne at the same time testifieth to all above written
Joseph Herrick

December the 2. 1747 Memarandam to meet M^r Emerson at his house this day fortnigh at two oClock after noon

Joseph Perkins of Topsfield Testifieth and Saith that he herd M^r John Emerson in his Prayers Several Sabbath days Say that the Divil Stirred up Sum of the Old Ministers to appose this Blefsed work.

Joseph Perkins

Jonathan Wildes of Topsfield Testifieth and Saith that he heard m^r Emerson of Topsfield on a sabbath day say that all parsons ware Born Divels

Jonathan Wildes

Samuel Curtis of Topsfield Testifieth that he heard m^r John Emerson on a Sabbath Day say that all parsons ware born Divels: Benj^a Towne testifieth to the fame

his

Samuel **T** Curtis
mark

Benj^a Towne

Samuel Curtis and hannah his wife Testifieth and faith that they heard m^r Emerson say on a sabbath day that there was not in the Bible a book nor a Chapter nor a Verce but what treeted on Christ: Benj^a Towne testifieth to the fame Samuel Curtis Ju^r Testifieth that he heard m^r Emerson say the fame

his

Samuel **T** Curtis
mark

her

hannah **O** Curtis
mark

Benj^a Towne

Samuel Curtis Juner

The Dipiscon of Samuel Curtis & Elisha Towne both of Topsfield Testifieth that they heard the Rev^r M^r John Emerson in his prayers on a Sabbath day Declare there was three parson then to be prayed for and if they died they would all go to hell

Elisha Towne

his

Samuel **T** Curtis
mark

Samuel Curtis testifieth and sayeth that he heard the Rev. M^r Emerfon several times on Sabbath days Declare when parsons scremed and made a great noise that they ware savingly Brought home to Chrif

Samuel T Curtis his mark

And M^r Emerfon on a fabbth day declared in prayer that all parsons that did not Come in before this prayer was done would be damed

his

Samuel T Curtis
mark

Elisha Towne

Benj^a Towne & Nath^l Porter J^r testifieth that they heard M^o Emerson say on a fabbath Day in sermon that Religion never gained aney thing by Disputs but allways Lost.

Nath^l Porter Ju^r

Benj^a Towne

Samuel Curtis testifieth to all above written

his

Samuel T Curtis
mark

Benj^a Towne

Elijah Porter Testifieth and Saith that Joseph How John Dwinel and Joseph Herrick Ju^r Desired Prayers for their being Sick and according to the Best of his Remembrance when the Rev : M^r Emerfon made a prayer for em, he Declared they were all guilty of that Damnable Sin of Drunkennefs and that if they then Dyed they would all Sink Down to hell

Elijah Porter

Rev. Sir. Whereas I Delivered you a paper on the second day of December 1747, and said in said paper, Ily my Letters that I have sent to you will fhow you the other reasons of my uneasinefs as plain and as fully as if I should now draft them and you notwithstanding still requesting that I would give you sum hints what these reasons are, Shall proseed to say in the first plae my first Letter Informs you and so do all the rest of my Letters that I thought you had Violated that scriptur in Matth

18. 15. 16 in Signing your self Incred and agreved when you never had tould me what it was for, and your writing after such manner to me in your Letters 2ly your saying you ware but a fool to your Negro in prayer

3ly your saying that all parsons ware Born Divels, and then when I charged it on you your Justifying and saying if Children of Rath then Children of the divel

4ly your discofe with me alone

5ly your Charging on maney of us that we had not a spark of grace nor the souls of men in us if we did not Voat for you to have such a sum of money which you named, with your denioying your saying so

6ly your refusing to discofe with sum of us Except you had sum of your party there, and so your deviding the town in to parties

7ly your promising to make the matters of my uneasiness Easie and your neglecting or refusing to do it

8ly your prayer (as you Caled it) for John dwinel Joseph how & Joseph herrick—it being much Like that you made for m^r Daniel Clark

fir these are the articals in the first Letter as you may more at large see by said paper and by sum other hints in said paper: the Letter is dated february the 24, 1745, but for brevity I Come to say, in my Letter of June y^e 16, 1746, your writting to me that which was not true as you may more at Large see by said paper, and in my Letter of January the Twenty second day 1746 where I say to you, fir you know what your Conduct hath been and if it was good why have you dwindled it away, and if bad why dont you make satisfaction &c. fir these words may breafly Comprehend Everything in your Conduct that hath not been agreeable to the word of god in Doctring disaploying or manners and also your saying the divel had stirred up sum of the old ministers to appose this blessed work 3ly and your saying that some ware struck by the divel or a bad spirit: and that others fained it—and your saying at other times that they Could No more helpe Crying out then Ever aney woman Could in Child birth, and your wishing that there never was aney more salt nor Rum to Come in to the Contry fir by these with the formar articals and sum other hints in my Letters

to you you may see fully the Reasons of my uneasiness as plain as if I should now Draft Everything, and I Consider to multiply artical upon artical will be Like adding fuel to fire and I think here is Enough for a Conference with what you had before Topsfield January the 20 : 1747 I Remain
Benj^a Towne

When M^r Thomas Baker was taken in to the Church M^r Emerson Declared that M^r Baker was forrey that he had any hand in shutting the meeting house Doors when M^r Whitfield was there M^r Baker says that he never said so

M^r Emerson said Religion never gained any thing by Disputes but always Lost

M^r Emerson said Can such a minister as I be mistaken. O no no

M^r Town Whereas M^r Richard Town informs me y^t you sent by Him for a Copy of sum things read at m^r Bixbys, when we met there last March: I take y^e most Convenient opportunity to write and send it But would observe to you y^t if you desired it before, why did you not make proper applications to me, and took it months ago. But after so long Delay, how strange is it y^t you should send Just at y^t instant, when y^e Company in arms were so impatient for prayers, y^t they might be dismissed: Could you have thought of a more unfutable improper Time?

And m^r Town, why Such a Noise and Difficulty about y^t which you might so very easily obtain. for my part, I wish you had had it long ago, and as I tell you, I take y^e first most convenient opportunity to write and send it, since m^r Richard Town has been to my House for it.

I suppose you Desire not a Copy of y^e whole (Tho' all if you please) answer to your articles which would be very large. But only of some few Lines wth which I Concluded my Answer to your Articles: and which are as follows viz

The Copy

Upon y^e whole, I would say farther. I will now and always by y^e Help of divine grace bless God for all y^e

blesed gracious influence of his most Holy spirit in ye late Times.

But woud heartily lament and utterly Condemn all y^t rash Judging and hard Censure there has been among us, and wherein Lieu^t Town or any others of my Hearers, or y^t are not my Hearers have been unduely or unjustly Censured I utterly retract it. And tho I must firmly belive y^t Convictions from y^t Holy Spirit of God may be so powerfull as to Cause persons to Cry out, yet I also beleive too much stress has been laid upon out cries, and wherein there has been too much, I desire to retract this also: And yet would avoid y^e other Extreme, and not think y^t Tears & y^e fhow of affection to be only Hypocriticall But y^t they may and often are indications of what is real and unfeigned in y^e Heart. a True Copy, y^t is to say of y^e Concluding part &c

John Emerson

M^r Town, I would not have you think y^t when I speak of rash Judging and hard censures in y^e above Copy, y^t I Confine this to those who have been friends to y^e late Times. So far from thinking so, y^t I believe y^t rash Judging and hard Censures has been abundantly from y^e opposing Side: But tis what I Condemn on Both Sides.

I am yours &c John Emerson

Topsfield June 24 1748.

For Lieu^t Benjamin Town

In Topsfield

Topsfield December 12, 1749.

Whereas y^r has been a Controversie Subsisting between y^e minister of Topsfield, John Emerson, and Lieu^t Benj^m Towne, This may Certifie y^t we do now agree to pass by and bury all former Differences as tho they had never been, and agree for y^e future to live in Love and friendship as become professors of y^e Gospel. As witnefs our hands.


John Emerson
Benj^a Towne

NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

(Continued from Vol. XVII, Page 192.)

 At the same time and place, will be offered for sale, the other three-fourths of the farm and out-lands—thus rendering it an object worthy of attention to any person in want of a good farm; it being of easy access, situated on the road leading to Ipswich, about two miles from the village of Topsfield, and five from Ipswich. The house is supplied with a well of good water; the field land and pastures by a brook, on which is a good mill, not more than half a mile distant.

Information given, by applying to

JOHN G. HOOD, Auctioneer.

Topsfield, March 7, 1856.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 7, 1856.

FARM in Topsfield.

FOR SALE, the FARM occupied by the subscriber, in the western part of Topsfield, about one mile from the railroad depot. Said farm contains about sixty-two acres, suitably divided into Mowing, Tillage, and Wood Land, with a good Peat Meadow, and well watered, and containing about 150 thriving young apple trees. The out-buildings on the farm are a good Dwelling House, 25 by 36 feet; a Barn 36 feet square, and Stable and Wood Shed, all of which have been built within the last seventeen years and are now in thorough repair.

THOMAS CASS.

Topsfield, March 7, 1856.

Salem Gazette, Apr. 1, 1856.

ESSEX INSTITUTE. A meeting will take place at Topsfield, on Saturday next, June 21st. The forenoon will be devoted to excursions.—In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the members will assemble in the Academy for the reading of papers, discussions, &c., on subjects relating to the natural sciences, and for the transaction of such business as appertains thereto. All interested are respectfully invited to attend.

Salem Gazette, June 17, 1856.

ESSEX INSTITUTE. The meeting of the Essex Institute at Topsfield, on Saturday, June 21st, was very interesting and profitable. Rev. J. Lewis Russell presided, and in an opening address made honorable mention of Mr. Benjamin Hale Ives of Salem, Mr. Wm. Oakes of Ipswich, and Dr. Andrew Nichols of Danvers, amongst the departed founders of the Society.

Mr. George D. Phippen, of Salem, read in part a communication on the introduction of the indigenous plants of this vicinity into cultivation, prefacing the same with some very interesting and appropriate remarks on the pleasure and improvement to be derived from a study of the Natural Sciences. Mr. P. has been for many years successfully experimenting on this subject, and as the result of labors in this department, his garden contains many specimens of our native plants in a healthy growing condition.

A communication from Dr. D. F. Weinland, of Cambridge, on the egg tooth of snakes and lizards, was read by Mr. F. W. Putnam. This singular tooth is found in the intermaxillary bone of the embryo snake, and its only use is to cut the thick leathery shell of the egg. Soon after the young snake leaves the egg, the tooth drops, and no tooth afterwards is found attached to this bone. Some few years since, whilst Dr. W. was engaged in the study of the embryology of the European ring-snake, he observed the appearance of little slits in the shell about the period of hatching, and at the same time examining one in his hand, he felt a scratch on his finger. Thus the tooth was discovered. He has since discovered this tooth in those species of American snakes which he has examined.

Remarks were made during the meeting by the chairman, Mr. S. P. Fowler, and others.

The kind attention of Dr. R. A. Merriam will long be remembered by those members of the Institute who were enabled to attend.

We understand that the next meeting will take place at Manchester, on Wednesday, July 9.

Salem Gazette, July 1, 1856.

TOPSFIELD.

Correspondence of the Salem Gazette.

Since the opening of the Newburyport Railroad to Boston, through Topsfield, things have had an upward tendency. The road is now doing more business than its more sanguine friends had ever predicted for it, and had the cost of the road been kept within proper bounds of economy, it would at this time have been a good dividend paying road. There are now erected and being erected more buildings than at any period since the settlement of the town.

The crops of grain never appeared better. The crops of English Hay never surpassed the present; in fact, all kinds of business are very prosperous and flourishing.

Politically, Topsfield is en masse on the side of Freedom and Fremont. It is said that there is but one Buchanan man in the whole town, and by the fall election I have no doubt he will be found in the great party of Freedom.

Last week our village was surprised by a notice that a Poem would be delivered by Charles H. Holmes, Esq., as a criticism on some of the dogmas that had been promulgated in the place. At an early hour Union Hall was filled to its utmost capacity by the elite of the town. The Poem was a masterly production, and gave universal satisfaction. And it did appear at times as though the mantle of his Illustrious Father, (Hon. John Holmes of Maine,) had fallen on the author. The Poem, I learn, will be given to the public from the press room.

Topsfield, July 4, 1856.

L.

Salem Gazette, July 8, 1856.

FREMONT CLUB IN TOPSFIELD.

A Fremont Club was formed in Topsfield, last Tuesday evening.

The officers of the Club are the following :—President, Joel Lake, Esq. ; Vice Presidents, J. W. Healy, N. Conant, B. Kimball, Samuel S. McKenzie, J. G. Hood ; Directors, T. K. Leach, Thomas P. Mundy, Samuel Clifford, Jeremiah Balch, Humphrey Balch, Jacob Foster, Samuel Adams ; Secretary, G. L. Gleason.

The following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, The Presidential Election, which is to occur in November next, will afford an opportunity to the people of the country to bring back the National Administration to the principles of purity, justice, and equal rights, which characterized the earlier history of the Republic—and inaugurate a policy which will secure to citizens in our Territories protection of person and property, the right of suffrage and free speech—which will discountenance and suppress ruffian violence, and will enforce just and equal laws.

Resolved, That we recognize in John C. Fremont, the noble, patriotic, enlightened, enterprising *man* for these times—on whom at the head of our National Government we may rely to secure these results.

Resolved, That as he has opened for us a path to the land of gold and to the Pacific, so it is the purpose of the friends of freedom and the lovers of their country, to open for him in the next Presidential Election a way to the chair of the Executive of the Nation.

Resolved, That while we would be willing always and everywhere to yield to the other candidates for the Presidency all the credit they deserve for the estimable traits of private character, we regard the Platform upon which one of them has embarked his political fortunes as a dangerous piratical craft, riding upon which the present Administration has become the patron and protector of murder, robbery, and disfranchisement of our fellow citizens in Kansas, and brought the nation upon the very verge of intestine war:—and we regard the expressed opinions of the other candidate as breathing a spirit so

intensely and unreasonably sectional, as to prove him incompetent to appreciate the present state of the country, and a man altogether unfit for the present crisis.

Resolved, That in the present struggle of Freedom with slavery, the victory of freedom is a victory for the whole country, and for the human race; and we recognize in John C. Fremont the qualities, both of mind and heart, which render him worthy to be a leader in such a contest.

Salem Gazette, July 22, 1856.

DIED. In Topsfield, Oct. 3d, John Lamson, 69 years 4 months. Capt. Lamson was one of the most valued citizens of Topsfield,—liberal, benevolent, and kind,—ever ready with heart and purse, in the support of every good work, and beloved and respected by all.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 17, 1856.

[At the political mass meeting held in Georgetown, Oct. 16th, The Topsfield Fremont and Dayton Club marched in the procession.] On their banner was a ring enclosing thirty-one stars, 15 black and 16 white, and the mottoes:

“Kansas shall be one of this bright constellation,”
 “The Union—it must and shall be preserved,” “Free Speech, Free Men, and the Free Territory, is our motto.”
Reverse—“Fremont and Freedom—Books and the Bible.”
 “Buchanan and Bondage—Bludgeons and Bowie Knives”
 —“Freedom National—Slavery Sectional”—a Bible beneath the former, and a pistol beneath the latter motto.

Salem Gazette, Oct. 21, 1856.

DIED. In Virden, Illinois, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, MR. HUMPHREY GOULD, aged 27. The deceased was a native of Topsfield, Mass., from which place he removed about two years ago. He was a man of very courteous and obliging disposition, and his daily walk was highly exemplary. He had never made a public profession of religion, yet has he left behind him consoling evidence that his soul had felt the power of the New Life. Mr. Gould was a devoted member of the Sabbath School and Bible Class, and was the worthy and much esteemed leader of the Virden Baptist Choir.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 12, 1856.

DIED. In Topsfield, Thomas L. Lane, Esq., aged 40. It is always a loss to the public to have a member of the community removed from it, who is in the prime of manhood, and who has performed all the social and moral duties of life with fidelity and promptitude, and in a manner agreeable to all. The loss is the greater when this community is circumscribed within the limits of a small country town. Mr. Lane, though not unknown in the neighboring towns, was probably better known and more duly appreciated at home than abroad, being a somewhat retiring man. Since he has been a resident with us, he has performed all the relative duties of husband, son, brother and a friend, in a manner that has made warm friends of all and will leave impressions upon all which will not soon be effaced. For three years Mr. Lane has labored under a disease which has deprived him of the power of uttering a loud word, the throat and organs of speech being the seat of the disease. Yet for the most part of the time he has been able to attend to his business, as a shoe dealer.—*Topsfield*, Jan. 5.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 6, 1857.

THE TOWN OF TOPSFIELD.

This town, which first drew the breath of life in 1650, having been settled eleven years previous by farmers and others, from Salem and Ipswich, is one of the prettiest in the county of Essex. Its inhabitants are chiefly farmers, though the business of manufacturing shoes is carried on to a considerable extent—the chief manufacturers in the place being Mr. Charles Herrick, who owns a large three-story building devoted to this purpose. It contains its groceries, too, where the good people within a wide circuit procure the necessities of life, and pass many pleasant evening hours in discussions of the various themes that rise up in daily review.

Before the introduction of railroads, the town, like most of the others in the county, supported a tavern, which was situated upon a hill over which runs the Newburyport Turnpike—a way that has long since passed under the control of the county, and ceased to exact toll of those who travelled it. All the recollections which clus-

ter about these old taverns will soon be the exclusive property of "the oldest inhabitant," and later generations must let their imagination supply all deficiencies of stage-drivers' yarns, ghosts, and hobgoblins.

Topsfield rejoices in two churches, both in a flourishing state, and four public schools. It has also an Academy for instruction in the various branches of education; "to furnish the youth of both sexes with the means of securing a thorough, practical education for the business of life; to fit young men for admission to college; to afford young ladies the means of obtaining a liberal education; and to inculcate in the minds of the young those great principles of morality and religion which form the basis of all that is lovely in the human character, and desirable in our free institutions." At any rate, so says the catalogue of the Academy for 1857. The whole number of students is 178—the average attendance per term being 79. The number of young gentlemen engaged in the classical department is 40; young ladies, 35. In the English department, gentlemen 58, ladies 45. The Academy, which is a plain wooden building of a decidedly intellectual bearing, is situated upon a hill, and is surrounded by a beautiful green lawn, affording ample room for rational sports of whatever nature.

Building, in this country town, progresses slowly but surely—the number of handsome houses, however, having increased more rapidly within the past two or three years. The old Cleaveland estate would perhaps attract the stranger's attention more readily than any other—the house, or a part of it, being one of the oldest in the place, though much improved over its original look by extensive outlays which have from time to time been made. Mr. Chas. Herrick has erected perhaps the most costly residence in town, a short distance from the railroad station. Mr. Jacob Foster and Mrs. Taylor,—widow of the late Rev. Mr. Taylor of Manchester,—have also erected very pretty and substantial houses, in close proximity, upon the same road. Mr. John G. Hood, also, has recently erected a new house upon the hill which leads to the Lake nurseries. Mr. Samuel Adams, opposite the post-office, and Mr. Dudley Perkins, upon the outskirts of the village,

have also done their share towards elevating the architectural character of the houses, and there are perhaps others who may have done the same.

Topsfield is within an hour's ride of Boston, and we wonder that some of the wealthy persons of the metropolis do not purchase and improve some of the pleasant lands which abound in the town. The village nestles within a complete surrounding of fertile hills, ever green and luxuriant, over which blows the wholesome western breeze, as pure as if wafted straight from heaven. Ipswich river passes through the town, too, and adds its share to the picturesque beauty of the place, especially after the heavy rains. To one who desires to witness the little town of Topsfield in full regalia of nature, we would commend a walk, some pleasant morning, to the old Toll House upon the Turnpike; though "great Hill" may doubtless furnish a better view *outside* the town limits.

Salem Gazette, May 24, 1857.

TOPSFIELD. The fourth of July will be celebrated in Topsfield by the ladies of the Methodist Episcopal Society, who will hold a Social Gathering at Union Hall, at 9 o'clock on the morning of that day. Distinguished speakers will be present from Boston, Salem, Lynn, Chelsea, Danvers, and other places. Martial music by several performers. A choir of singers and a quadrille club will be in attendance. The proceeds to be appropriated to financial and benevolent objects. Cars leave Topsfield for Boxford, Georgetown, Haverhill and Newburyport, at 4 o'clock, and for Danvers, Salem, and Boston, at 5.50 P. M.

Salem Gazette, June 30, 1857.

TOPSFIELD.—The Assessors of Topsfield have completed their census of Legal Voters and Inhabitants, and arrive at the following results:—

No. of Legal Voters,	293
“ “ Inhabitants.	1202
“ “ Children between 5 and 15,	265
“ “ Enrolled Militia,	200
Population returned in 1850,	1142
“ “ “ 1855,	1162

The fourth of July was duly commemorated, as we had previously announced, by the Ladies of the Methodist Society. This festival, says the Register, was a very successful and gratifying affair. The Stars and Stripes were displayed from the bell-tower of the church, and the Vestry, or "Union Hall," in the basement story, was very tastefully decorated with evergreens and flowers, and festooned with American ensigns. Here had been erected a series of temporary tables, which were beautifully spread with delectable things, to a free participation of which the moderate price of admission introduced the guests. Felicitous addresses were made by Rev. Father Taylor of Boston, Rev. Messrs. Herrick of Salem and Sutherland of Danvers; by Mr. Ellis, the Preceptor of Topsfield Academy, and Benj. P. Adams, Esq., of T. The exercises were interspersed with music, and the large company present, numbering some five hundred, of all ages and both sexes, enjoyed themselves to their utmost satisfaction, and closed the services, at a late hour in the afternoon, feeling that the day had been most appropriately and happily celebrated in this ancient and pleasant town.

The students of the Topsfield Academy—an institution which is now in a most flourishing condition—held a Pic Nic near Hood's Pond, in Boxford, where it is unnecessary to say that the spirited young men of this school, and their friends present, enjoyed a grand good time.

Salem Gazette, July 7, 1857.

TOPSFIELD—Frederick Boyden, formerly of Topsfield, died at Goshen, Orange county, N. Y., Friday evening. Mr. Boyden was son of the late Simeon Boyden, of Boston, and for a number of years one of the proprietors of the Astor House, New York, and subsequently proprietor of the Exchange Hotel, Richmond, Va. Mr. Boyden purchased the extensive farm in Topsfield, Mass., known as the "Crowninshield farm," but finding our severe winters and cold east winds did not agree with him, he disposed of his farm some fifteen months since, and removed to New York city; but perceiving his health still

failing, he removed to Goshen, to pass a few months, but there death closed his earthly career.

Salem Gazette, July 28, 1857.

TOPSFIELD—A valued correspondent from this good old town says: "I have read with interest your 'County Gleanings,' and have wished you might have a correspondent in every town, to furnish you with interesting incidents which are constantly occurring. I see by your last paper that the County Commissioners have placed us with Beverly and Wenham, in one Legislative district, which I think is very satisfactory to the people of Topsfield. Our former connection with these towns in the Congressional district was very agreeable. When whig principles were thought something of, Beverly, Wenham, and Topsfield, were not regarded as insignificant towns, and reminiscences of the past are pleasant.

We are now in the midst of the berry season, and as ours is a *berry town* we have many distinguished visitors from abroad. Our farmers are now enjoying a fine season to harvest their hay, and the crop is abundant. Some considerable complaint is made on account of the potato rot, which is confined to the chenangoes and early varieties. I apprehend the late planted will not suffer. The apple crop will be a failure. Corn is looking as well as usual at this season of the year, and if the frost holds off there will be more than a usual crop. Smaller grains are harvested and are good.

Two lads, sons of Mr. Eleazer Lake, were picking berries a few days since, when the youngest was attacked by a large "water snake", and would probably have been severely dealt with, had not his brother come to his rescue. They succeeded in killing it, when it was found to measure three feet and four inches in length, and had in its stomach twenty-seven young ones, measuring eight inches each. When placed in a row, so as to touch each other, they measured twenty-one feet and four inches—a good family of snakes and smart boys. Mr. Henry Long beats all in the hen line. He gave his old hen (all the fowl he keeps) twelve eggs, and she brought out fourteen chicks, and left two bad eggs; and what is strange there

were six cocks and six pullets, and they are all doing well.

I have just seen Mrs. Goodrich, the wife of the notorious Joshua, who is in the Newburyport jail for a criminal assault on his daughter a short time since, and she informs me that her daughter had run away with a young man to get married. She says her daughter and this young man made the complaint against the girl's father, to put him in a situation to hinder his interfering to prevent their marriage. How much truth there is in this story, I am unable to say. At any rate, the young man who is complainant, and the girl who is the witness, are both among the missing.

Salem Gazette, Aug, 28, 1857.

TOPSFIELD. B. Poole, Esq., President of the Newburyport Railroad, so the Herald says, has one of the finest and most extensive gardens in the country, comprising four acres, handsomely laid out, walled and hedged, and planted with all the approved varieties of apples, pears, peaches, and cherries, together with the minor fruits and vegetables. The arrangements in and around the handsome mansion and other buildings are all in keeping.

If he manages the affairs of the Newburyport Railroad, of which he is President, with the same judgment, skill, and precision which he bestows on his garden, we have no fear but that its present success will continue.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 25, 1857.

TOPSFIELD—A correspondent of the Bath (Maine) Tribune, in a late letter, thus notices this pleasant town:

"This is one of the most cosey villages of Essex County, which is noted for its many pretty little towns. It is nestled amid verdant hills and has a bright and sunny aspect. It is just the place one would select who desired a quiet, healthful place of residence, and many have availed themselves of its advantages in that respect. Among them are Mr. Moses Wildes, long known as a proprietor of the Elm St. House, and now a monied man of State Street, Boston, Mr. John Cleaveland, of Brooklyn, N. Y., who is an operator in Wall St., Mr. C. Her-

rick, an extensive shoe manufacturer in this place. The two last having elegant mansions. Benjamin Poole, Esq., has a delightful country residence, with field, orchard, ornamental trees and shrubbery surrounding the house. Mr. P. is a native of Maine, practised law very successfully in Lowell, Mass., was a member of the Legislature from that city, and is now President of the Newburyport R. R., he acting also as Superintendent and Attorney—all of which offices he fills to the great satisfaction of all concerned.

Topsfield has a slow but steady growth, and among the new buildings, J. G. Hood, Esq., who is the principal active Justice of the town, has a fine residence, on an elevated and pleasant locality, the best I think in this place. Mr. B. P. Adams has the Post-Office.

There is a very good Academy in the village and two churches. There is a very good moral society and hospitality among the people.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 3, 1857.

TOPSFIELD—A correspondent of the Andover Advertiser says that the principal business of this village is butchering for Salem and Danvers markets. Almost everybody is a butcher, and almost every wagon is a butcher cart. Mr. Thos. P. Munday, one of our *largest* citizens, supplies the markets with about 8000 sheep and lambs, 2000 calves, and 400 cattle annually, besides pigs, poultry, &c.

Salem Gazette, Mar. 5, 1858.

TOPSFIELD The receipts and expenditures of the town of Topsfield for the year ending Feb. 26, 1858, have been printed at the Salem Gazette office. The expenditures were as follows:—Schools, \$796 69; Roads and Bridges, \$2,308 10; Snow Paths, \$394 97; Expenses in the Peabody Case, \$342 87; Overseer's Department, \$652 00; Incidentals, \$2,114 72. Total, \$6,608 35: Balance in the Treasury, \$1510 02. Amount of Town Debt is \$7,021 00.

Salem Gazette, May 7, 1858.

TOPSFIELD. The town of Topsfield has met with a very serious loss, in the decease of John G. Hood, Esq.,

who died on Sunday night last, at the age of fifty-one years. Mr. Hood had long been one of the most respected magistrates and most valued citizens of the town, which was his birthplace, and for the honor and welfare of which he had never spared his time or labor. He had never followed any other employment as a profession than that of a farmer; but he had for many years given much of his time to the settlement of estates, and other probate and legal business, for which his talents fitted him, and of which his character for exactness and probity naturally brought a great deal to him for performance. As a citizen, he was without reproach, and as a friend and neighbor, one of the kindest and best of men.

Salem Gazette, June 8, 1858.

The Supreme Court have recently sent down from Suffolk County their decision on the long contested case between Wm. Peabody and the Town of Topsfield. The pltf. originally recovered a verdict against the town of \$1235, for injuries received by reason of alleged defects in the highway. A motion was made to set aside the verdict, but was overruled and judgment was ordered on the verdict, and execution was duly issued, but while in the progress of enforcement, a petition for a new trial was filed by the town upon the ground of newly discovered evidence, and a *supercedeas* issued to the officer holding the execution, ordering a stay of the process until after a hearing of the petition. A hearing was had at the recent term of the S. J. Court, and the Chief Justice, who presided, took the matter under advisement. It seems from the decision he has recently communicated to the Clerk of Courts, that the petition for new trial is dismissed. The original judgment therefore stands affirmed.

Salem Gazette, July 6, 1858.

For the Salem Gazette.

THE TREADWELL FARM.

Mr. Editor.—The Essex Agricultural Society have not yet decided upon the measures they should pursue in relation to the Treadwell Farm. Is there no person who

could inform the public respecting Dr. Treadwell's views in regard to this matter? He undoubtedly had some general plan of operation in his mind when he made the bequest. It is a pity that he did not explain in detail the course he wished the Society to pursue in their management of the farm. But as he has not done this, it remains for the Society to adopt some plan that would seem the most expedient to carry out the will of the testator.

That he intended the farm should be used for experimental purposes, is made manifest by the conditions of the bequest, which provides that the farm shall be forfeited for the benefit of the Mass. Gen. Hospital, if it should ever be used for anything else except an experimental farm. The Society has no right to lease it, or to give it away, nor to place it beyond the control of the Society, by giving it up to the management of a single individual.

Among the plans which have been proposed for the management of the farm, the following are the most important:

1. It is proposed to make the farm the centre of all the operations of the Society; the place for holding their Annual Exhibitions, and for all meetings for the transaction of the Society's business; the place for the Clerk's office, the library, cabinet and documents, and the depot for the live-stock and other property of the Society, not in funds. For these purposes certain buildings should be erected on the farm, and the whole should be placed under the management of a superintendent, whose qualifications are not particularized.

2. A second proposition is to give some practical farmer the rent and profits of the farm for an indefinite period, on the condition that he will perform certain experiments, proposed occasionally by the Trustees; or to give the rent and profits of the farm to any practical farmer who will agree to instruct a certain number of boys in the practical business of farming, thus making it a sort of private agricultural school.

3. Another proposal was made by Mr. Flagg, in his Essay on Experimental Farming, published in the last

number of the Society's Transactions. In this essay it is proposed to place a man of liberal education upon the farm as Superintendent, who should make it a sort of depot of general, practical and scientific information. It should be his duty, besides overseeing the practical operations of the farm, to keep a journal of these operations, also meteorological and entomological journals, to which the members of the Society and others might refer for any information which they might afford; the Superintendent holding a correspondence with other societies and experimenters, and furnishing periodical reports to the Trustees. The labor of the farm would be performed by hired men under his supervision. This plan might easily be combined with the one under the first head.

Lastly it has been proposed to give the farm up entirely to the management of some practical farmer, who should occupy it and enjoy its profits, free of rent, for a period of 10, 15, or 20 years, on the condition of keeping a daily journal of all his processes and their results. The Society would exercise no control over its management except to see that the occupant complied with the conditions, and to use the matter of his journal for the benefit of the public.

Drill.

Salem, July 14, 1858.

Salem Gazette, July 20, 1858.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.—The Semi-Annual Examination of this successful Institution was on Wednesday, July 15th. The writer had the pleasure of being present in the afternoon, and was highly interested. The exercises commenced with singing by the members of the school, which convinced all that there was no lack of musical talent. Declamations were then given by J. H. Byne, of Galveston, Texas; M. V. B. Perley, of Ipswich; and A. D. Pearson, of Topsfield, all of whom did credit to themselves and the school.

The Orations, with the subjects, were as follows:—The Sons of Liberty, George P. Flint, North Reading; Struggles, Jefferson K. Cole, Boxford; Death, Clarence Fowler, Danvers; Mental Culture, Daniel J. Ames, Ver-shire, Vt.; Influence of Great Men on their Age, Henry

G. Rollins, Georgetown. The orations were creditable to their writers and the school. The last one, by H. G. Rollins, would compare favorably with the best productions of college graduates, and do honor to many men of high pretensions. Next came the reading of the paper published by the school. The Editor, H. G. Rollins, introduced Miss Abbie Cole of Topsfield and Miss Mary Cushing of Williamstown, as the *readers*, who interested those present, for the space of half an hour, with rich gems of thought and wit, causing many a hearty laugh.

We next listened to the reading of essays by the following ladies of the graduating class:—Cornelia M. Thurston of Vershire, Vt., Margaret A. Hoyt, Georgetown, Charlotte A. Perkins, and Ellen F. Kimball of Topsfield. The essays were finely written and very pleasing. The one by Miss Kimball, on the Marriage of the Hemispheres, was particularly good, being written in an easy, natural style, and well read.

At the close of the exercises, Diplomas were presented to those graduating, with appropriate remarks by the worthy and able Principal, O. D. Allis, A. M.

Topsfield Academy has a fine location, and we were happy to find the school in such a flourishing condition.

Although we were told by the Principal that the past term had not been so fully attended as previous terms, yet the school was in a healthy and promising state, and as long as its present Board of Teachers remain, we have high hopes of its success.

AN OLD FRIEND OF EDUCATION.
Salem Gazette, July 23, 1858.

TOPSFIELD. In Topsfield, the noble old pine, which has been a conspicuous object for many years, near the entrance of the village, on land of Mr. Orne, was struck by lightning, on Thursday, and split in two.

Salem Gazette, July 27, 1858.

For the Salem Gazette.
TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.

Permit us to call the attention of the readers of the Salem Gazette and Essex County Mercury to this worthy

Institution. The report has by some means gone abroad that immorality is permitted to exist here to a great extent without molestation. Now, while it is true, that here, as in every other large school, improprieties have sometimes occurred, yet, as in all well conducted schools, they have been promptly and thoroughly banished as soon as discovered. And we are confident that a more upright and moral school than this has been for some time past, and now is, cannot be found.

Mr. Allis, the Principal, is eminently successful as a teacher and disciplinarian. He takes the deepest interest in the moral and religious training of his students, and employs no teachers but those of the first order, whose whole time and energies are devoted to their classes and the school, and those who are experimentally acquainted with the Christian religion.

The location of the Academy is one of the finest in the country. It is situated on the Newburyport Railroad, twenty-five miles from Boston, nine miles from Salem, and twelve miles from Newburyport. It occupies a beautiful eminence, in a central part of the village of Topsfield, commanding a fine view of the surrounding scenery. The town is free from those allurements to vice, drinking and gaming saloons, &c., which are found in most of our towns and villages. There are two churches, of the Methodist and Congregational denominations, at one or the other of which all the students who board in town are required to attend regularly.

While the teachers strive to impart good moral and religious lessons, they are careful to avoid sectarianism in all its forms, so that this is a school for all denominations. In short, we believe that in small expense, in thorough mental discipline, and in freedom from immoral influences, this school possesses advantages over most of our New England schools, and we most heartily recommend it to public favor and patronage.

CIVIS.

Topsfield, July 21, 1858.

Salem Gazette, July 30, 1858.

TOPSFIELD.—*Mr. Editor.*—I see you are picking up scraps for almost every part of the County, but do not say anything about Topsfield.

We will just inform you that we have some lions left, if we have parted with some to supply your city and others.

Although one of our lions, in the shape of a farm, met with a little accident, by some of the stock falling through the floor, which certainly would not have happened if the oxen had not been heavier than any others that had been there before; for I understand the brick was entirely new. The next in course, as you proceed north, is the Treadwell Farm, if not now a lion, is destined ere long to become one; and, we think, has already made a very good beginning, having garnered three hundred bushels of shelled corn the first year of its improved culture, to say nothing of other products. Advance one step further north, and you find yourself in the best pomological garden in the county of Essex, where they sell apples at 7 dollars a barrel the present season. Advance some 30 minutes' walk further, and you come to a young pear tree, which produced the income of 12 dollars at six dollars per bushel, the present year.

If Topsfield is not quite a *city*, it has been predicted that it will become one day a *seaport*; and we had last week some very fine speeches from Gen. Oliver, who, if not a mayor then, is now; and has left his mantle with us, which we hope will one day spread over the city of Topsfield, or some other in the county.

A little incident happened to the General, while visiting the schools. While spending an hour or so in the South School, the General, by his easy, familiar and child-like manner, soon attracted the attention of the whole school. He came to one little bright-eyed and intellectual boy, eight or ten years old, and who had commenced attending school that day, a perfect stranger to the teacher and the Committee present. The General, among other questions, asked the little boy what his name was. The boy very innocently answered,—“*Henry K. Oliver Batchelder!*” The General was not aware he had got so near home.

Last week we were informed that there was no sleighing between Topsfield and Salem; but that from Topsfield to the Canada line the sleighing was perfect.

Salem Gazette, Dec. 21, 1858.

TOPSFIELD.—The bill of mortality in this town for the last year presents a remarkable aspect. Only twenty-two persons have died, the oldest of whom was 85. Four were quite young children, and the remainder were adults, the whole number giving the extraordinary average of more than 50 years. There are few towns which can show a better general bill than Topsfield.—*Reg.*

Salem Gazette, Jan. 7, 1859.

TOPSFIELD.—A Bald Eagle was shot on Thursday last by Mr. Eleazer Lake. The wings when extended measured eight feet. Beat this who can.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 18, 1859.

TOPSFIELD. Eleazer Lake and brother *shot*, on Saturday last, on the Ipswich river, in Topsfield, seventy muskrats, in fifty-five shots; a great day's work at gunning.

L.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 28, 1859.

Valuable Farm for Sale in Topsfield.

To be sold at Private Sale all together or in lots to suit purchasers, the valuable Farm formerly known as the DAVID LAKE FARM, containing about one hundred acres of as good land as can be found in Essex County, upon which is a good dwelling-house, two stories high, well supplied with water: two large Barns, one nearly new. Also, a new building, suitable for a Shoe Manufactory, or can be easily made into a dwelling-house.

The Farm is among the most desirable in Topsfield—Seventy-five acres of it lie in a body near the house, and is suitably divided by good stone wall; bounded on the southerly side by the beautiful stream of water, the Ipswich River, which runs on the south side for a considerable distance. This farm is situated in a pleasant and beautiful location. A part of it is upon high land, and commands an extensive prospect of the adjacent country, and is capable of being cut up into superior house lots; this part is bounded by the road on the west, directly opposite the property of Asahel Huntington and George Wheatland, Esqs., of Salem, on the east by land owned by Hon. John Cleaveland, of New York.

Also, four acres of Woodland, in Willis' Woods, in Boxford. Six acres of excellent Salt Marsh in one lot, also another of two acres, both situated on the Hundreds in Ipswich.

The above named farm is well worthy the attention of those who wish to purchase a good estate. It is in one of the best neighborhoods—in a locality combining great beauty, health and social benefits of the highest order. It is a few minutes walk from the Topsfield depot; and the village in which are two flourishing churches, good common schools, and an academy for the education of both sexes, which is acknowledged unsurpassed by any similar institution in Essex county.

Topsfield is situated upon the Newburyport Railroad; is one hour's ride from Boston, and 35 minutes from Newburyport. For further particulars apply to ANDREW GOULD, in Topsfield.

THOMAS J. CLARK.

Amesbury, April 12, 1859.

Salem Gazette, April 12, 1859.

TOPSFIELD.—The students of Topsfield Academy will give an exhibition at Union Hall, on Thursday evening, May 5th. The exhibition will consist of original orations, colloquies, tableaux, recitations, &c. The music will be an attractive feature of the exhibition, being both vocal and instrumental.

The Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Topsfield has a vein of excellent good sense running through it. The Committee say:

In our connection with the schools this year, we have observed less disposition among the scholars to attend to fancy branches of studies, to the neglect of the more fundamental and essential branches, such as Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, and Grammar; and we think these branches are much more important, in the order which we have named them. That is, Reading is of the first importance, and Spelling next.

As to the higher branches, Physiology and most of the ologies, which are directed by the Legislature to be taught in our common schools, we think they should be confined

to the higher schools. It ought not to be required of teachers to be learned in these branches; they belong more particularly to professors in colleges and other high institutions of learning. Females, especially, who are the best teachers for youth, would not spend the time for so great a preparation, in view of the short term which they design for teaching. The smattering of very imperfect knowledge which the pupil would get from such imperfect teaching, could not be very useful or valuable.

The common civilities, the little amenities of life, should be more attended to by parents and teachers.

Salem Gazette, May 3, 1859.

TOPSFIELD ACADEMY.—The Semi-annual Examination of this Institution took place on Wednesday, July 13. It was pleasurable and highly instructive to listen to the Rhetorical Exercises in the afternoon, which consisted of Essays, Recitations, Declamations and Orations. The Essays, by both ladies and gentlemen, displayed much sound practical thought and ready wit, both of which were not wanting in the Poem entitled "Gumption," written by Miss Lucie Weston. The Recitations were a very interesting feature of the exercise, delivered by A. M. Merriam, J. W. Perkins, G. Welch and J. B. Putnam, who, in his always remarkably good manner of speaking, acted the "Lay of the Madman" admirably, thrilling the breast of every hearer. The speakers of Declamations showed taste in selection, determination to improve, and a clear apprehension of the author's thoughts. Next were the Orations; one, entitled "Education, the Parent of Happiness and Prosperity," was neatly written by M. V. B. Perley; the other, entitled "Jephtha's Daughter," was so vividly described and delivered with such pathos, by G. F. Flint, that we could, in imagination, behold the beautiful maiden kneeling before her valiant father to receive her death-blow. All who participated in the exercise (so many that this brief sketch forbids the insertion of all the names) gained credit for themselves and for the school, and showed that they possessed minds, capable, with proper cultivation, of wielding a mighty force for the good of mankind.

Topsfield Academy is in a flourishing condition, the number of its students increasing, and the buildings having lately undergone repairs. A. J. Dutton, A. B., Principal, is a worthy citizen and efficient teacher; and we, knowing personally his merits, most cheerfully recommend him to the public.

Amicus Educationi.

Salem Gazette, July 19, 1859.

DIED. In Somerville, July 13, of disease of the heart, Lydia Porter, wife of James W. Stearns, Esq., formerly of Salem, and daughter of the late Billy Emerson, Esq., of Topsfield, 66 yrs. 8 mos. 23 days.

Funeral Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Relatives and friends are invited to attend without further notice.

Salem Gazette, July 26, 1859.

TOPSFIELD. The semi-annual examination of Topsfield Academy was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of last week.

The condition of this school has been uniformly satisfactory. The instruction has been thorough and accurate, and the discipline of the most pleasant and salutary nature.

The principal, with his highly accomplished aids, have succeeded, in a good degree, in inspiring their pupils with that feeling of self-respect which tends so greatly to promote propriety of deportment and manliness of bearing. The most kindly feeling exists between the teachers and pupils, each having the confidence in the other which is so essential to and promotive of right action. On the last day of examination the hall was crowded with spectators, all the exercises were such as to afford indubitable evidence of great industry and fidelity on the part of teachers and pupils. The exercises of the afternoon were particularly interesting, consisting of Compositions, Recitations and Orations. The compositions were put up in paper-like form, and read by two ladies and two gents. There was much talent exhibited in preparing the articles furnished. There are many excellent writers in this school, as was seen by the Orations which followed. They

were delivered by Geo. F. Flint, John W. Perkins and Geo. T. Welch. Mr. Welch is a superior speaker as well as an excellent writer. The recitations were highly creditable, having a variety of the pathetic, dictactive, and humorous.

We rejoice to hear of the improvement about to be made from the proceeds of their recent Levee, and we have full confidence the pupils will strive diligently to have their deportment and improvement such as will indicate a proper appreciation of their extra privileges.

It is a matter of sincere regret on the part of all concerned, that the school is about to lose the services of Mrs Jones, the highly accomplished and efficient assistant. She has been connected with this school for several years, and her labors have been eminently and entirely satisfactory. She has enjoyed the confidence of her patrons, and she will ever be gratefully remembered by her pupils.

A SPECTATOR.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 22, 1859.

Topsfield Academy.

The Winter Term of this old and well known Institution will commence MONDAY, Nov. 28. Tuition and Board as heretofore. For a Catalogue or further information, address the Principal,

A. A. Dutton.

Topsfield, Mass., Nov. 22, 1859.

Salem Gazette, Nov. 22, 1859.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

Topsfield, Dec. 17, 1775. After repeated attendance on Divine Worship, it being the evening of the Sabbath, without any previous complaint, sunk down in his seat and suddenly departed this life, ELLIAH PORTER, Esq. ; in the 63d year of his age ; a person of good endowments, natural and acquired, which rendered him a great blessing to his family and friends, by whom he was highly valued for his sensible, serious and pleasant conversation, as well as benevolent disposition. His death is greatly lamented by his relations and acquaintance ; but, blessed be God, they don't mourn as those who have no hope.

New England Chronicle (Boston),
Jan. 11, 1776.

Topsfield, June 16th 1788

Recd of Daniel Bixby Guardian to Reuben Perkins the Sum of two Pounds Fourteen Shillings it being one half of the Sum agreed to give the Subscriber in Consideration of said Reuben Perkins Liveing with him twelve months in the winter Season in order to Learn a Shoe makers Trade

Recd by me
Robert Perkins Junr.

Topsfield, June 23d, 1792

Publick Notice is hereby given to the Inhabitants of said Towne that the School will be kept at the house of Mr. David Townes on Monday the 25th Day of June instant said School to begin at the usual Time.

Daniel Bixby, Pr. Order.

Topsfield, January 27, 1799

Notice is hereby given that the school will move from the School house on the South side of the River to the school house near Benjamin Hobbs's Tomorrow by order of the school Committee.

Jonas Merriam.

VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1912.

BIRTHS.

1911.

- Oct. 12. ——— son of Harry M. and Catherine (McNevin) Smith.
Dec. 29. ——— son of J. Howard and Delia R. (Baker) Burnett.

1912.

- Jan. 23. ——— dau. of Paul and Lucia (Le Caporal) La Cassessa.
March 13. Spencer Linwood, son of Ralph E. and Ines L. (Stetson) Newell.
March 30. Alexander, son of David and Gesualda (Abbadessa) Gangi.
March 30. Elizabeth, dau. of John and Margaret (MacClellan) McQuade.
June 16. Kenneth Leslie, son of Leslie L. and Isabelle P. (Smerage) Ingalls.
July 7. Ormond C., Jr., son of Ormond C. and Elizabeth (Carnes) Taylor.
July 19. ——— dau. of Pietro A. and Emmanuela (Matteo) DeGisi.
Aug. 9. Elmer B. Jr., son of Elmer B. and Anna G. (Blaney) Thomas.
Aug. 10. Priscilla, dau. of Frederick M. and Mabel R. (Towne) Peabody.
Sept. 12. ——— dau. of John W. and Florence M. (Derry) Fuller.
Sept. 26. Donald Bartlett, son of Harry O. and Zella E. (Bartlett) Banks.
Dec. 15. Warren Ferguson, son of Russell C. and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Smith

MARRIAGES.

1912.

Jan.	24.	{ Frank O. Roberts (Topsfield), son of N. Hanson and Mary J. (Sykes) Roberts. Addie F. Adams (Topsfield), dau. of Edwin and Sarah C. (Moore) Adams.
March	13.	{ Herbert Fryer (Stoneham) son of Harry A. and Ellen J. (Tidd) Fryer. Ethel Irene Hoffer (Stoneham), dau. of Louis A. and Dora (Meyer) Hoffer.
Sept.	25.	{ Eben A. Peabody (Topsfield), son of Alden P. and Lydia A. (Wildes) Peabody. Eva O. Harris (Danvers), dau. of William E. and Mabel L. (Sanford) Harris.
Oct.	5.	{ William C. Long (Topsfield), son of Ira P. and Harriet L. (Follansbee) Long. Mary G. Jackman (Topsfield), dau. of Charles V. and Mary C. (Underwood) Jackman.
Oct.	22.	{ William J. Goodwin (Danvers), son of George and Mary A. (Anderson) Goodwin. Luella Pearson Rust (Topsfield), dau. of Loring A. and Mary A. C. (Towne) Rust.
Oct.	30.	{ Clarence M. Severance (Topsfield), son of Frederick and Margaret E. (Margeson) Severance. Catherine E. Melin (Topsfield), dau. of John and Mary (Dunning) Melin.
Nov.	5.	{ Mark R. Hodges (Topsfield), son of Benjamin and Maria R. (Reynolds) Hodges. Ida E. Williams (Topsfield), dau. of Henry B. and Frances (Parton) Williams.
Dec.	8.	{ George A. Stanwood (Topsfield), son of James W. W. and Susie (Clark) Stanwood. Bertha E. Titus (Topsfield), dau. of Frank and Ada M. (Porter) Titus.

DEATHS.

1912.

Feb.	10.	Benjamin Johnson, son of Perley and Sarah (Perkins) Balch, aged 85 yrs., 5 mos., 1 day.
Feb.	17.	Josiah P., son of Dudley and Sarah (Perkins) Perkins, aged 79 yrs., 4 mos., 13 days.
March	2.	Martha Rebecca, wife of Leonard E. Woodward and dau. of John C. and Sarah F. (Hoyt) Hubbard, aged 54 yrs., 4 mos., 12 days.
March	21.	Mary Elizabeth, wife of Ira W. Kneeland and dau. of Josiah and Elizabeth (Phillips) Crowell, aged 74 yrs., 5 mos., 2 days.
April	12.	Sarah Elizabeth, dau. of Moses and Sarah E. (Stickney) More, aged 61 yrs., 11 mos., 1 day.
April	16.	Albert W., son of Caleb and Sarah (Bailey) Stevens, aged 75 yrs., 9 mos., 6 days.

April	18.	Domenico, son of Antonio and Filomena Santo (Nicola) Scoglio, aged 8 mos., 5 days.
April	21.	Margaret Y., widow of C. Austin Averill and dau. of Charles and Anna H. (Lake) Sweeney, aged 74 yrs., 8 mos., 29 days.
April	23.	Carrie Lena, dau. of James and Johanna (Carroll) Deickhoff, aged 22 yrs., 3 mos.
May	5.	Lucilla A., dau. of Gideon and Content (Wood) Phillips, aged 80 yrs., 15 days.
May	5.	William H., son of Humphrey and Mary L. (Chapman) Kneeland, aged 77 yrs., 4 mos., 20 days.
May	15.	Charles W., son of Elijah and Elizabeth (Polman) Long, aged 85 yrs. 6 mos., 24 days.
May	17.	William Melville, son of James and ——— (Creolman) Ellis, aged 66 yrs., 4 mos., 10 days.
May	24.	Harriet Lucy, widow of Calvin Fuller and dau. of Andrew and Mary (Lake) Gould, aged 75 yrs., 7 days.
June	30.	Carlo, son of Joseph and Saverio (Montcalvo) Gesauldo, aged 19 yrs.
Oct.	4.	Mary S., widow of David G. Perkins and dau. of Anthony and Sarah (Tomkins) Chase, aged 84 yrs., 2 mos., 14 days.
Nov.	3.	James W., son of Thomas and Margaret (Riley) Cass, aged 68 yrs.
Nov.	26.	Elizabeth R., wife of William Keith and dau. of James R. and Jenet (Watt) Michie, aged 43 yrs., 4 mos., 1 day.
Dec.	11.	Elmer B., Jr., son of Elmer B. and Hannah G. (Blaney) Thomas, aged 4 mos., 2 days.
Dec.	17.	Mary L., widow of Warren Nichols and dau. of Andrew and Mary (Lake) Gould, aged 81 yrs., 7 mos., 7 days.
Dec.	20.	James Welch, aged about 55 yrs.

Deaths in Other Places, Interment in Topsfield.

1912.

Jan.	26.	Ida May Phillips, died in Salem, Mass., aged 56 yrs., 1 mo.
Jan.	30.	Mary P. Covey, died in Chelsea, Mass., aged 72 yrs., 10 mos., 3 days.
Jan.	31.	——— Welch, died in West Newbury, Mass., aged 1 day.
March	19.	Charles G. Gotton, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 67 yrs., 11 mos., 26 days.
April	1.	Carrie A. Pingree, died in Middleton, Mass., aged 1 yr. 4 mos., 6 days.
April	21.	Alberta L. Fuller, died in Salem, Mass., aged 1 day.
May	13.	Esther J. Daley, died in Salem, Mass., aged 65 yrs., 2 mos., 2 days.
Aug.	17.	D. B. Pike, died in Old Town, Me., aged 51 yrs.
Aug.	18.	Ernest B. Elliott, died in Haverhill, Mass., aged 33 yrs., 8 days.
Sept.	8.	Caroline A. Castle, died in Chelsea, Mass., aged 32 yrs., 7 mos., 3 days
Sept.	22.	Louise A. Butterick, died in Boxford, Mass., aged 48 yrs., 9 mos., 16 days.
Nov.	27.	Mary E. Fuller, died in Lawrence, Mass., aged 19 yrs., 11 mos., 18 days.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1912.

1912.

- January. John C. Lamson, M. D., of Boston, a native of Topsfield, bequeaths \$5000. to the Topsfield Town Library.
- March. Rev. George M. Boicourt, of Bonner Springs, Kansas, appointed pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- June 24. Two additional mid-forenoon trains added to the schedule of the Boston & Maine R. R.
- Sept. 17-18. Annual Cattle Show and Fair of the Essex County Agricultural Society at the Agricultural Farm.
-

BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1912.

- James P. Hale, High St.; bungalow.
- John S. Lawrence, Ipswich St.; bungalow and carriage house.
- Herbert D. Northey, off Prospect St.; house and garage.
- Thomas P. Pingree, Colerain; dwelling-house.
- Hiram L. Clay, Colerain; dwelling-house.
- Henry B. Williams, West S.; dwelling-house.
- Charles P. Potter, Central St.; barn.
- Franklin Balch, Salem St.; piazza.
- George H. Shattuck, Wenham St.; pump-house.
- Thomas W. Pierce, Boston St.; bungalow and pump-house.
- George Francis Dow, Main St.; the Wildes-Hutchings house removed to High St., and remodelled into two dwelling-houses.
- Merrill B. Bailey, Main St.; shoe manufactory taken down and removed to Georgetown.
- Union Metalic Paint Co., off West St.; shop.

